

**Minutes of the Eighth Meeting of
Finance Committee (2020-2021)
Central and Western District Council**

Date : 15 April 2021 (Thursday)
Time : 2:33 pm
Venue : Conference Room
14/F, Harbour Building
38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong

Present:

Chairlady

Ms WONG Kin-ching, Cherry*

Vice-chairman

Mr PANG Ka-ho*

Members

Ms CHENG Lai-king*

Mr KAM Nai-wai, MH*

Miss CHEUNG Kai-yin*

Ms NG Hoi-yan, Bonnie*

Mr NG Siu-hong (Beginning of the meeting – 3:45 pm)

Mr YIP Kam-lung, Sam*

Miss YAM Ka-yi, Camille*

Mr YOUNG Chit-on, Jeremy*

Absent:

Mr YEUNG Sui-yin, Victor (Sick leave, approved by the Finance Committee)

Mr HUI Chi-fung

Mr LEUNG Fong-wai, Fergus

Mr HO Chi-wang

Mr WONG Weng-chi (Sick leave, approved by the Finance Committee)

Remarks: * Members who attended the whole meeting
() Time of attendance of Members

Guest List:

Item 5

Ms HO Alice	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	District Leisure Manager (Central and Western)
Ms YAU Yun-wah, Susanna	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Central and Western
Ms WONG Kit-yi, Pat	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Senior Manager (Community Programmes)
Ms LAU Sau Ping, Jan	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Senior Manager (Hong Kong West)
Ms ZHAO Yee, Emily	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Manager (Hong Kong West)
Mr CHAN Hang-fai, Andrew	Alice Theatre Laboratory	Artistic Director
Ms CHAN Shui-yu	Alice Theatre Laboratory	Administrative Director
Mr TSE Man-chun, Cyrus	Alice Theatre Laboratory	Programme Manager

Item 6

Ms LI Shuk-kuen	Saint Barnabas' Society and Home	Interim Executive Director
Mr LAM Kwok-wing	Saint Barnabas' Society and Home	Senior Minister
Ms WONG Pui-yi	Saint Barnabas' Society and Home	Senior Programme Officer
Ms KO Hoi-ching, Cynthia	Caritas Parents Resource Centre	Social Worker
Ms CHAU Lai-har	Caritas Community Centre (Caine Road)	Social Work Assistant
Mr LAM Yiu-ming	Caritas Community Centre (Caine Road)	Social Work Assistant
Mr WONG Yik-chi	Caritas Community Centre (Caine Road)	Social Work Assistant
Mr CHIM Ming-kwong	Caritas Community Centre (Caine Road)	Social Worker

Mr QIU Song-qing	The Association of the Hong Kong Central and Western District Limited	Executive Vice-chairman
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Ms CHIU Wah-kuen	Hong Kong Central and Western District Women Association	Chairlady
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Item 8

Miss LO Wai-ling, Fanny	Central and Western District Office	Senior Liaison Officer (Building Management) 3
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In Attendance

Mr LEUNG Chee-kay, David, JP	Central and Western District Office	District Officer (Central and Western)
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[Attended the whole meeting]

Miss NG Wing-hei, Agnes	Central and Western District Office	Assistant District Officer (Central and Western)
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[5:45 pm – end of meeting]

Mr WONG Yan-kwong	Central and Western District Office	Senior Executive Officer (District Council)
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Secretary

Mr LEE Tin-chi, Cario	Central and Western District Office	Executive Officer (District Council)1
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Opening Remarks

The Chairlady welcomed all to the meeting. She indicated that to avoid crowd gathering, the Secretariat would arrange essential personnel for the meeting, which should not exceed two hours. Media workers and assistants to District Council (DC) Members entering the Conference Room would also be required to register their real names and phone numbers to facilitate tracking when necessary. At the same time, the Chairlady pointed out that as space was limited in the Conference Room, she hoped there would not be too many people entering the Conference Room and indicated that those entering would have to undergo contactless infrared temperature check and wear their own masks. The Secretariat would not provide any tea cups but only packaged drinks for hygiene purposes. Members were welcome to help themselves. In addition, to tie in with the Government's anti-epidemic measures, all visitors entering the Harbour Building were required to use the "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile application starting from 1 March. They were required to scan the QR code when entering government premises (such as the Conference Room of the Central and Western District Council (C&WDC)) or register their names, contact numbers, and the date and time of their visits to facilitate tracking in case a confirmed case was found, otherwise they would be refused entry to the government premises. Staff of the premises were authorised to verify the information provided. The Government understood public concerns over privacy and therefore upheld the principles of protecting personal data when designing the "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile application. The Government would ensure that personal data collected on the spot would not be retained longer than necessary and would be destroyed after 31 days if retention was not required. The Chairlady asked the attendees to note the above arrangements until further notice. She indicated that there would only be a single round of discussion for each agenda item and each Member would be given not more than four minutes to speak each time. The Chairlady also stated that applications for sick leave from Mr YEUNG Siu-yin and Mr WONG Weng-chi were received by the Secretariat before the meeting. Should there be no other views, the applications concerned would be accepted.

2. The Committee approved the sick leave applications of the two Members.

Item 1: Adoption of the Agenda

(2:36 pm to 2:37 pm)

3. The Committee adopted the agenda of the meeting.

Item 2: Confirmation of the Minutes of the Seventh Finance Committee (FC) Meeting in 2020-2021

(2:37 pm to 2:38 pm)

4. The Chairlady noted that amendments from Mr KAM Nai-wai received by the Secretariat had been tabled for Members' perusal. She indicated that should Members had no other views, the amendments would be adopted.

5. The Committee adopted the minutes of the meeting as amended.

Item 3: List of DC-funded Activities under Focus Inspection
(C&W FC Paper Nos. 12/2021 to 19/2021)

(2:38 pm to 2:39 pm)

6. The Committee noted the list of funded activities.

Item 4: Proposal on DC funds Allocation for Community Involvement Projects (2021-22)
(C&W FC Paper No. 20/2021)

(2:39 pm to 3:04 pm)

7. The Chairlady remarked that the paper was drafted by the Secretariat and invited the Secretary to give a briefing on the direction and considerations of the allocation of funds in 2021-22.

8. The Secretary indicated that Home Affairs Department (HAD) had confirmed earlier that the funding for community involvement projects in 2021-22 would be the same as that allocated in the 2020-21, i.e., \$18,497,900. The Secretariat had discussed with the Chairlady and Chairman of DC on allocation proposals for the year and set down considerations for funding allocation for the year as follows: (1) since there were signs of easing of the epidemic recently and about \$600,000 commitments for anti-epidemic activities last year were carried forward to 2021-2022, together with a separate provision of \$400,000 this year, there would be a provision of nearly \$1 million for anti-epidemic activities in 2021-2022; (2) based on the spending of funding by the committees and working groups last year, it was proposed that a "central reserve" category would be created to group together all unspent funding for allocation to the committees and working groups as needed in the future; (3) it was proposed to earmark \$800,000 for large festive celebration events, of which \$500,000 would be reserved for open applications of local organisations to hold activities in celebration of the Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR and National Day, and the remaining \$300,000 would be reserved for other celebration events, and it would be left to the Working Group on C&WDC Affairs to decide on inviting local organisations and the types of the activities to be held for the festivals this year; (4) final allocations to most committees and working groups would be the same as those received last year; and (5) concerning the proposed allocation of \$1.14 million for "festive lighting" this year, the Secretariat proposed to earmark \$440,000 for activities for the Festive Lighting at the Central to Mid-levels Escalator and Walkway System this year. In addition, regarding the approval of the provision of funds made during the seventh FC meeting for the motion on organising activities at the nightlights park at the promenade, the Secretariat

proposed to earmark \$700,000 this year for the preliminary work of the activities while issues such as details of site selection of the activities could be discussed at meetings of the District Works and Facilities Management Committee later. The Secretary added that among the \$18,497,900 allocated for community involvement projects this year, \$3.38 million were dedicated for arts and cultural activities and the Secretariat had taken the requirements concerned into account when preparing the paper. He hoped the Committee would approve the funding allocations or propose amendments to the allocations.

9. The Chairlady asked Members to note that as instructed by the HAD, funding would not be earmarked for the District Study and Consultation Programme this year. Members were invited to raise questions and give their views.

10. Mr YOUNG Chit-on remarked that although the epidemic situation still persisted, the situation was quite different from that of last year, for example, residents scrambled to collect the masks distributed by Members last year, but they were no longer in urgent need of those supplies today. He continued to point out that as the community gained anti-epidemic experience, and vaccines and testing centres were available to help them to fight the epidemic, DC should seek other ways to help the community rather than distributing supplies such as masks and handrubs.

11. Mr YIP Kam-lung considered it was necessary to earmark funding for anti-epidemic purposes. As for the view of Mr YOUNG Chit-on that anti-epidemic measures should be sought other than distributing supplies such as masks and handrubs, he believed that it was true that there were other feasible measures for the DC to consider and that there had been such discussions in different DC meetings, but the District Officer (DO(C&W)) did not approve the procurement of masks and street washing. He said although there were signs that the epidemic was easing, \$400,000 should be earmarked to cope with unexpected circumstances and the DC could consider how to use the funds in future.

12. Mr KAM Nai-wai remarked that the current discussion was about earmarking funding and not the actual implementation of projects, and that if Mr YOUNG Chit-on considered distributing supplies such as masks and handrubs was no longer necessary, he could offer specific proposals for discussion. However, Mr KAM said as there were many recent infection cases in the buildings in his constituency in Sheung Wan, supplies such as masks were still necessary. He continued to point out that although the current demand for supplies like masks was different from that of a year ago, he believed that maintaining social distance and wearing masks were necessary measures for fighting the epidemic, but the Government no longer allowed the Council to procure and provide masks. Mr KAM agreed that \$400,000 should be earmarked initially for anti-epidemic projects and that detailed discussions could be held later to collect views on the use of funds. As for earmarking \$800,000 for holding large festive celebration events this year, Mr KAM noted that the remark column in the paper had specified that part of the provision had to be reserved for various celebrations, such as the Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR and the National Day, and as DC Chairman had mentioned earlier about the requirement, he hoped the Secretary or DO(C&W) could help explain if the Government or the HAD had required earmarking a specified amount for such celebrations, and if Festive Celebration Events covered only the Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR and the National Day but not other festivals. He hoped to clarify the definition and find out if the Government had specified an amount. Mr KAM continued to indicate that the paper had not shown the distribution of the \$3.38 million dedicated allocation for

arts and cultural activities among the categories. Since the dedicated allocation had to be spent on the promotion of arts and cultural activities, it was necessary for Members to be clear about its use. In addition, he noted a remark in the paper specified that \$700,000 of this year's funding for "festive lighting" would be for nightlights park, with the remaining \$400,000 for holding the Central to Mid-levels Escalator and Walkway System Festive Lighting project. He indicated that DC suggested earlier to hold lighting designs competition and enquired if the expenditure for the event had been taken into account. Based on the Christmas lighting activity held by DC last year, two lighting of very small scale could take up around \$300,000 of the funding, hence he estimated that \$700,000 would not be enough for the scale he proposed earlier for the nightlights park. He considered funding for this year's festive lighting should be increased to cover the expenditures of activities including the lighting designs competition.

13. DO(C&W) clarified that the "Festive Celebration Events" in the paper did not include the two celebrations of the Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR and National Day, and Members might consider inviting non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to apply for funding to celebrate other festivals such as the Mid-Autumn Festival, and that the proposed funding allocations were based on DC allocations for activities for the Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR and National Day and that the Government had not specified any amount. Concerning the \$3.38 million dedication allocation for arts and cultural activities, DO(C&W) indicated that the dedicated allocation had been set up for years for the purpose of ensuring that a certain percentage of funding would be allocated to arts and cultural activities and the department had adopted a lenient approach, which meant activities generally understood to be related to arts and culture could be covered by the dedicated allocation, and not just more traditional arts and cultural activities like songs and dances. DO(C&W) went on to point out that the dedicated allocation covered different categories of the proposed funding such as "festive lighting", and for the \$700,000 earmarked for activities for the nightlights park at the promenade, he considered Members could discuss and come up with a more appropriate amount.

14. The Secretary said that concerning the allocation of the dedicated allocation for arts and cultural activities that Mr KAM Nai-wai enquired about, the categories of the funding included "For applications from the committees and local organisations (arts and cultural activities)", "Culture in the District" and "yearly Central & Western District festive lantern decorations" under the Cultural, Education, Healthcare, Leisure and Social Affairs Committee (CLSAC); "Festive lighting" under the District Works and Facilities Management Committee and "District Free Entertainment Programmes" under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) with a total funding of about \$2.7 million. Moreover, as some commitments from last year were carried forward to this year under "commitments carried forward from last year" and different cultural and arts activities would be included in applications opened to local organisations this year under "applications from other local organisations", it was considered that the proposed funding allocation would meet the requirement. In addition, he said the \$700,000 funding provision was drawn up based on the allocation of funds to different lighting activities by the DC, for example both Christmas festive lighting activity and Mid-Autumn lantern activity were granted a funding of \$350,000 each, and the projected scale of the activity of nightlights park at the promenade, which was double of that of the usual lighting activity. The Secretary continued to remark that as the nightlights park activity should be held for two years based on earlier discussions of DC to relieve the financial pressure on the current

financial year, it was proposed to earmark a provision of \$700,000 initially and to earmark provision as needed in the next year. If Members considered \$700,000 was inadequate to cover the proposed expenditure of this year, allocation could be made from the “central reserve”.

15. Mr KAM Nai-wai wished to clarify whether the \$3.38 million so-called dedication allocation for arts and cultural activities was a compulsory requirement, which meant if DC was not required to actually allocate \$3.38 million for the use as long as the specified ratio was met. He wished to know the department’s funding ratio required for arts and cultural activities though DO(C&W) claimed to adopt a more flexible approach in determining the activities, for example lighting activities would also be counted. In addition, he said if Members agreed to the ratio, he hoped the Secretary would indicate in the remarks which would be counted as categories covered by the dedicated funding for arts and cultural activities, for example the category could be noted as “included in the \$3.38 million dedication allocation for arts and cultural activities”, so that Members would know if the funding allocation had met the requirements. Mr KAM continued to remark that when an organisation submitted an application for arts and cultural activity in future, the Secretariat should note the activity was covered by the dedicated funding for arts and cultural activities and provide information about meeting the requirement of the \$3.38 million dedication allocation for arts and cultural activities. He understood the dedicated allocation covered different categories, but the approach would keep Members better informed of the use of the allocation. On “Festive Celebration Events”, Mr KAM considered that if the department had not specified the required amount of the allocation and defined “festival celebration”, i.e. no specification for the allocation to be spent on celebration activities of the Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR and the National Day, DC could change and decide on the requirement of the content and amount of allocation for “festival celebration” activities at any time in future, as well as to approve funding applications of different “festival celebrations” on an individual basis.

16. DO(C&W) indicated that the \$3.38 million dedication allocation for arts and cultural activities was the minimum amount that DC had to allocate for arts and cultural activities.

17. The Secretary indicated that the \$3.38 million dedication allocation for arts and cultural activities had been included in the \$18,497,900 allocated for community involvement projects for C&W District this year, and the requirements were calculated on fixed amounts and not a certain ratio of the total funding. The Secretariat would also make reference of Mr KAM Nai-wai’s suggestions and if Members amended the funding allocation proposals, the Secretariat would note which categories were counted as arts and cultural activities in the amended funding allocation proposals to be submitted to Members for their perusal after the meeting.

18. Mr KAM Nai-wai remarked that as Festive Celebration Events already covered all festival activities, he proposed to reduce the allocation from \$800,000 to \$500,000 with the \$300,000 released to be allocated to “festive lighting” to increase the allocation to the category from \$1.14 million to \$1.44 million while leaving the \$388,000 in the “central reserve” intact.

19. The Chairlady indicated that natures of the activities under the two categories of Festive Celebration Events and “festive lighting” were different, and enquired if other Members had other views.

20. Ms CHENG Lai-king indicated that, on anti-epidemic activities, about \$600,000 funding from last year were carried forward to the current financial year for procuring and distributing hygiene packs. But on masks and handrubs, since compulsory testing or even “lock down” restriction were imposed on some buildings in the C&W District where positive results of the presence of the virus had been obtained in the samples taken from the sewage, and residents were required to wear masks by the law when they went out, many residents wished to obtain masks from her ward office, resulting in inadequate stock currently. Hence, she would not object if DC would re-allocate funding for the procurement of masks for giving out and she hoped DO(C&W) would convey the message to HAD or ask the Government Logistics Department for masks for DC to distribute. Should some Members find they no longer require any masks by then, they could inform the Secretariat for disposal in other ways. Ms CHENG indicated that the \$400,000 anti-epidemic funding could be used in arranging anti-virus coating spray services for buildings in the district, but the arrangement might involve more complex issue of property valuation and DC might consider the arrangement in future if necessary. In addition, Ms CHENG indicated that she had discussed funding allocation this year with the Chairlady and DO(C&W) earlier. Since at the time DO(C&W) proposed to earmark \$500,000 for Festive Celebration Events to organise activities for the Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR and the National Day and given the recent easing of the epidemic situation, she proposed to earmark an extra \$300,000 and open applications from local organisations for the celebration of festivals such as the Mid-Autumn Festival and Christmas, which led to an increase of this year’s provision for Festive Celebration Events to \$800,000. Hence, she asked DO(C&W) if DC could earmark \$500,000 for open applications from local organisations for the celebration activities including those for the Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR, the National Day and other festivals, or DC was required to earmark \$500,000 for activities for the Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR and the National Day, and other funding had to be earmarked for celebrations of other festivals.

21. DO(C&W) indicated that as explained earlier DC could not allocate fund for the procurement of masks at present. On Festive Celebration Events, he explained the proposed allocation of \$500,000 was based on past DC funding for activities for the Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR and the National Day, and the Government had not made any requirement for any specific amount. In the earlier discussion of this year’s funding allocation, both the Chairlady and Ms CHENG indicated their wish to open applications of the funding to local organisations for the celebration of other festivals this year, hence he proposed to increase the budget to \$800,000 which was agreed by the two Members at the time.

22. The Chairlady indicated that if Members had no other views on the funding allocation proposals, and if they agreed to Mr KAM Nai-wai’s proposal of cutting this year’s budget for Festive Celebration Events from \$800,000 to \$500,000 with the \$300,000 released to be allocated to “festive lighting” to augment the allocation to the category from \$1.14 million to \$1.44 million.

23. Members adopted the amended proposal and amended this year’s funding allocation accordingly.

Item 5: Funding applications of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department

(C&W FC Paper Nos. 21/2021 to 23/2021)

(3:04 pm to 3:46 pm)

(FC Paper No. 23/2021)

24. The Chairlady invited Members to consider granting \$6,169,031 to LCSD for implementing its Recreation and Sports Programmes in C&W District from May 2021 to March 2022 and to raise questions and express their views.

25. Mr KAM Nai-wai said since Members had discussed the Paper at an earlier DC meeting he had no specific comment on the content of the Paper as a whole, but he wished to know: (1) As the Government was expected to continue to maintain the prohibition on group gathering in May or relax slightly the prohibition upon the expiry of the current arrangement on 29 April, whether LCSD had made any preparations for the programmes for that quarter of the year in the event that the Government still imposed social distancing restrictions when LCSD commenced to launch the Programmes in May, for example if there were different measures for indoor and outdoor activities; (2) Since DC was to allocate over \$6 million to LCSD for the Programmes, how the department would present the Programmes as being DC-funded in its publicity and if the department could now provide leaflets, publicity posters, application forms, webpage materials and the like displaying DC logo and specifying the activity as DC-funded. He went on to say that if the department had not displayed those information, such information should be added and provided to Members after the meeting.

26. Ms YAU Yun-wah, Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support), Central & Western of the LCSD, indicated that the department had been following closely the Government's guidelines on anti-epidemic measures and had adjusted the ratio of activity trainers and trainees based on the suggestion of sports associations to avoid cancelling training classes as far as possible. Moreover, as the epidemic situation persisted and considering social distancing restrictions and potential risks to the people, the department had cancelled for the time being large outdoor activities like carnivals while the classes of the Programmes were mainly indoor training classes regularly attended by residents, and Tai Chi classes had been modified into Tai Chi Made Easy classes. Ms YAU continued to point out that the arrangement to cancel outdoor classes as far as possible would depend on the epidemic situation and whether the Government would further relax current restrictions. Moreover, the Programmes had been drawn up on the assumption that outdoor activities would resume in the third and fourth quarters of the year. In the event that the activities had to be cancelled due to the sudden change of the epidemic situation, LCSD would refund the unused allocation to DC. On publicity, the department understood Members were concerned with the display of DC logo and had submitted a follow-up report to CLSAC last year, and to cite as example, the monthly community recreation and sports programmes schedule and related publicity publication (such as posters and prospectuses) of the Central & Western District Leisure Services Office were already printed with the logo of C&WDC and the wording of "all expenses of the activity are sponsored by C&WDC". On webpage information, since the webpage of LCSD covered the recreation and sports programmes of 18 districts, it was difficult to display only the logo of C&WDC. However, publication on webpage of community recreation and sports programmes printed and funded by LCSD had added the wording of "All expenses of the community recreation and sports programmes are sponsored by District Councils" in the note to inform the community the

source of the funding. Ms YAU continued to point out that publicity publications printed by the Central & Western District Leisure Services Office had added the logo of C&WDC and the wording. If Members agreed to the current Programmes, the department would organise the recreation and sports activities this year based on the views Members made last year.

27. Mr KAM Nai-wai was of the view that even if the department was unable to display the logo of C&WDC, it should still specify the activity was funded by DC in textual information.

28. Ms YAU Yun-wah of LCSD remarked that the webpages of the department's internet site already specified the information.

29. Mr KAM Nai-wai said that the department could provide the webpages after the meeting. But he wished to know why the wording of "the activity is sponsored by DC" and the logo of C&WDC could not be printed on the covers of publications funded and printed by LCSD.

30. Ms YAU Yun-wah of LCSD said she had conveyed Members' views to the responsible sections of HQs last year. However, since the publications also provided recreation and sports information of the 18 districts, the follow-up action taken was to print the wording that the activity was "sponsored by DC", but the logos of the 18 District Councils were not displayed across the board.

31. Mr KAM Nai-wai enquired why only the logo of LCSD but not that of DC was printed on the covers of publications of activities fully sponsored by DC, and he hoped the department representative would convey the view to LCSD. He pointed out that as the activities were wholly funded by DC with the department being only responsible for organising them, if funding had been withheld by DC, the department would not be able to organise them. Mr KAM continued to say that the activity publicity poster displayed by the department representative earlier clearly showed the information that the activity was "sponsored by DC" but a smaller number of residents would come across the posters of the activities and he believed that more would have access to information of the department online. Hence, he was dissatisfied with the way the department presented DC's sponsorship of recreation and sports activities online and publications. He considered the department should clearly present DC's sponsorship of the activities prominently on the first page of the website and not the current way of just giving the information by a brief sentence on the bottom left on the inside page of the publications. Mr KAM considered that it was unacceptable that information about DC's funding of the activities was not clearly specified when C&WDC had allocated over \$6 million for them. He asked the department representative to clearly convey the views to the responsible persons of LCSD. He cited as an example that DC had asked DO where at WE Park had the logo of DC been displayed in the past and had discovered that it was shown under the benches. Only after DC Member had given a reprimand at a meeting that changes were made to display the logo at the entrance. He considered that there should be mutual respect between the department and DC and as the activities had been funded by DC for LCSD to organise them, he was puzzled as to why LCSD downplayed the role of DC. He asked the department to inform Members after the meeting how changes would be made to the publicity of the Programmes and considered that information of DC's sponsorship should be displayed prominently on the same footing, size and location as that of LCSD.

32. Ms YAU Yun-wah of LCSD noted Member's views and would coordinate and discuss the matter with the responsible sections of the HQs. However, she could not promise on the spot that the changes would be made. She would follow up on the matter after the meeting.

33. Ms CHENG Lai-king indicated that ever since the Government had conferred on DC the authority to provide funding for LCSD to hold activities in the districts, logo of the C&WDC had never appeared at LCSD activities. Hence, she agreed with Mr KAM Nai-wai that the department should inform residents by publicity that it was because of the sponsorship of the C&WDC that they were able to participate in the recreation and sports activities with lower fees. In addition, concerning the department representative's remark that the logos of the 18 District Councils were not displayed across the board on publications funded and printed by LCSD, she was of the view that as the activities were funded by DCs with the venues and trainers arranged by the department, it was more ideal for logos of all the DCs be displayed and the sponsorship by the 18 District Councils noted in the publications.

34. Ms YAU Yun-wah of LCSD said that Member's views were noted.

35. The Committee approved the funding.

(FC Paper No. 22/2021)

36. The Chairlady invited Members to consider granting \$700,000 to LCSD for implementing the "18dART-Community Arts Scheme in Central and Western" and to raise questions and express their views.

37. Mr Mr KAM Nai-wai said as the project would cost around \$1.4 million and was completely new to C&W District, he had asked earlier for representatives of Alice Theatre Laboratory (ATL) to brief DC meetings of the arrangements of the project to keep Members better informed of ATL's promotion and implementation. He continued to indicate that he basically supported the project and hoped to have a greater variety of arts and cultural activities different from the past District Free Entertainment Programmes which simply presented eight to ten performances at open public venues. He was interested in the operation of the Story-telling Tea Party of the Scheme and how it could link up the District. In addition, Mr KAM hoped the representative of the organisation would briefly explain the way Street Photography Workshop would link up the District and how it was different from the past approach. He continued to say that since the representatives might yet to arrive when the meeting was discussing how DC's sponsorship should be presented at activities, he asked the representatives how DC's participation in the Scheme would be presented in all its publicity materials and information. Mr KAM remarked that DC's participation was not limited to the publicity of the Scheme and he hoped the representatives would explain how they would arrange DC's participation role so that it could monitor the progress of the Scheme and understand during and on completion of the Scheme what elements could help with continuous development in future.

38. Ms CHAN Shui-yu, Administrative Director of ATL, thanked the meeting for the chance to brief them of the Scheme. She said the Project on Rebooting Arts in Central and Western District under the Community Arts Scheme of C&W District would be produced by ATL, and introduced the qualifications and awards received by her and Mr CHAN Hang-fai, Artistic Director; the background to the establishment of ALT; and past

performance pictures and programmes funded by the Arts Development Council (ADC) and Home Affairs Bureau (HAB), such as school training, youth theatres, public performances, publications and overseas exchanges. She also briefed Members of the “education theatre”, developed based on her overseas exchange experiences and in operation for years, the story-telling part of which covered many Chinese subjects and had been financed by the Jockey Club, hence it was run by a full-time team. As regards the “youth theatre”, she said the scheme had been financed by the ADC to organise the Pioneer Youth Theatre Project to train “pioneer youth” in the hope to enhance participants’ interests in arts. The young men came from all walks of life and many had no previous theatre experiences, but had now become performers or production crew of the theatre.

39. Mr CHAN Hang-fai, Artistic Director of ATL, explained that the success of Pioneer Youth Theatre Project was due to the participation of people with and without theatre experiences. They worked and complemented one another and contributed to the success of the Project.

40. Ms CHAN Shui-yu of ATL continued to say that four programmes, namely Opening Performance, Story-telling Tea Party, Training Course on Movement with Music Inspirations and Street Photography Workshop would be presented under the current Project on Rebooting Arts in Central and Western District. It hoped to achieve various arts purposes by inviting local renowned artists of different fields to work together, holding Chinese traditional story-telling activities, launching music theatres and organising street photography workshops. As regards the Opening Performance, she indicated that ATL had held similar activities in the past and this time it planned to work with Caritas Mok Cheung Sui Kun Community Centre to perform traditional Chinese and unique Hong Kong stories to audience in the district.

41. On Story-telling Tea Party, Mr CHAN Hang-fai of ATL indicated that its actors and storytellers would first study the C&W District and present such information, such as the unique geographical location, declared monuments and streets of the district, by means of physical performance and storytelling.

42. Ms CHAN Shui-yu of ATL added that the activity would be held at the Laundry Steps of Tai Kwun and residents of C&W District were welcomed to enjoy the free performance and to learn about local history and people’s stories. On Training Course on Movement with Music Inspirations, she said ATL would work with artists in different professions to provide participants with training in theatrical arts and performing opportunities. The plan was for participants to perform in the tentatively titled “你或我或他的一段城市遊園舞曲” (in Chinese only) so as to express their feelings for the district through small stories of cross generation communications, long distance love affairs, friendships between neighbours and between man and pet. On Street Photography Workshop, Ms CHAN presented the experiences of the tutors, images of participants in past similar activities and promotion pictures taken especially for the Project, and said participants would explore the community in costumes and capture their images of C&W District through their lens. She said graduation photography exhibition would be held at H6 CONET and Sheung Wan Civic Centre Theatre. ATL believed that expensive photographic equipment was not necessary and mobile phones were good enough for taking pictures, and what was important was how the trainees saw and felt about the community. Ms CHAN opined that anyone could participate in arts activities and what was important was not their potentials, but what arts would give them, and she said ATL hoped to bring

positivity to the participants through the Project.

43. Miss YAM Ka-yi said the briefing by representatives of ATL was more detailed than the previous presentation by way of Paper only. In addition, she remarked that as the Project was funded by C&WDC, participants should be residents in the Central and Western District. Since the Project was expected to bring arts to the community while most local residents were unlikely to have professional arts training, ATL could emphasise in its publicity that it was unimportant whether participants had relevant experiences but whether they were earnest. She appreciated ATL's view that it was unnecessary for participants to join the Street Photography Workshop with expensive photographic equipment and considered it could emphasise that as long as interested participants were interested they could join even if they were about to use mobile phones to take pictures.

44. Ms CHAN Shui-yu of ATL said tutors had indicated some generous donors would provide cameras they no longer used, and participants could join with only their mobile phones for what was important was how they view the community. She believed many applicants would be attracted when enrolment started and since the number of places was limited, to prevent no show, a selection board would be set up to find out why the participants join and what they wished to achieve through arts, based on which their eligibility would be considered and not simply their artistic standards. Tutors of the activity would find out the trainees' characters and expertise beforehand for training so as to enhance the effectiveness. Ms CHAN said the selection board would mainly talk with the applicants and they could give performances in those subjects they were confident in. The selection board would consider if the applicants were earnest and their commitment, and would select 15 creative trainees to join the activity.

45. Miss YAM Ka-yi remarked that the word "selection" might give applicants a mistaken idea that they had to have certain talents and experience to participate and considered the milder word of "interview" could be adopted.

46. Ms CHAN Shui-yu of the ATL understood the suggestion of using the word and said the enrolment form would have more lively designs to attract young people with passion.

47. Ms CHENG Lai-king enquired if the 2 385 participants estimated in the Paper included the spectators and if benefitting trainees had to be residents of C&W District.

48. Ms WONG Kit-yi, Senior Manager (Community Programmes) of the LCSD, explained that the Project included three workshops and estimated that there would be around 45 trainees. If enrolment was high, the department could discuss with ATL to adjust the number based on the situation. She hoped all trainees could participate in the final graduation performance and would also consider drawing up a waiting list to fill the places in case some trainees left half-way through the Project. Taking into consideration the performance activities of the workshops, showcase and graduation performances, the total number of beneficiaries was expected to be 2 385. On publicity, Ms WONG indicated that posters and leaflets would be used for promotion, and it would be shown on the publicity materials that the Project was co-organised by the department and C&WDC. In addition, the department would pay for the promotional video for broadcasting on social media and print booklets to introduce the contents of the department's Community Arts Schemes for 18 districts and information of participating organisations, and it would be mentioned that the Schemes were co-organised by the department with DCs. The final

products would be provided for Members. Ms WONG continued to indicate that in the past the department would report on the numbers of participants, effectiveness and audience responses at meetings of DC, and the department had especially commissioned earlier a study to assess the responses of trainees and views of spectators on the Community Arts Schemes.

49. Miss YAM Ka-yi remarked that DC had earlier offered to have Members served as members of the selection board and hoped LCSD would invite DC Members to attend the selection board.

50. Ms WONG Kit-yi of LCSD said Members would be informed and invited to attend once details of the selection board were confirmed.

51. The Committee endorsed the allocation.

Item 6: Funding Applications of the Local Organisations of the C&W District
(C&W FC Paper Nos. 24/2021 to 36/2021)
(3:46 pm to 6:52 pm)

52. The meeting was chaired by the Vice-chairman.

53. The Vice-chairman invited Members to refer to FC Paper No. 24/2021 for a total of 12 funding applications involving \$669,870. The Vice-chairman reminded Members to declare interests prior to the discussion of relevant applications if they had interests in the organisations making the applications.

(FC Paper No. 25/2021)

54. The Vice-chairman invited Members to consider granting \$78,858 to Saint Barnabas' Society and Home (SBSH) for implementing "Fighting the Pandemic Together in the Central and Western District" and to raise questions and give their views.

55. Mr YIP Kam-lung recognised the work of SBSH as meaningful. As he had queried whether the uniforms costing over \$10,000 to make were too expensive during SBSH's application for funding last year, he wished to know the reasons for the funding application and if it could explore reducing the related expenditure. He indicated that a representative of SBSH had explained that more durable uniforms were to be made for participants to continue to wear in future activities, so he enquired if the uniforms left from last year could be used in the current project.

56. Ms WONG Pui-yi, Senior Programme Officer of SBSH, responded that it had tried as far as possible to produce team T-shirts with lower costs and believed they could buy one at \$50 and new team uniforms were necessary because the organisation had to print the title of the current project, "Fighting the Pandemic Together in the Central and Western District", on the team uniforms and those from last year could not be used as the current year's uniforms.

57. Mr YIP Kam-lung considered that as SBSH had been organising bedbug control activities to grass-root families regularly, DC should avoid granting funding to applications for one-off expenditure repeatedly. He commented that the applicant organisation should not apply for funding for uniform expenditure year after year simply to print the title of the

current year's project and suggested that the organisation should reuse the uniforms. He continued to ask the Secretary if the current DC allocation could only be used on the current project and so the title of the current year's project had to be printed making it impossible to reuse the uniforms the next year.

58. The Secretary responded that if the organisation was successful in its funding application, it could consider excluding the year in designing new team uniforms and try to use the same title for similar project in the future to reduce the amount of future funding application through reusing some of the uniforms.

59. Mr LAM Kwok-wing, Senior Minister of SBSH, pointed out that when it conducted bedbug control operations to cubicle apartments of grass-root families or the elderly, SBSH would give uniforms to those who needed them as the bedbug problem was not limited to the living environment and bedbugs were easily found on clothes. Hence, it was necessary to apply for funding to produce team uniforms every year.

60. Mr YIP Kam-lung enquired if the organisation was saying that, apart from workers who provided bedbug control service, uniforms would be given to beneficiaries as souvenirs. He remarked that C&WDC probably had a ceiling on funding application for souvenirs.

61. The Secretary responded that DC had set a ceiling of around \$20 for each souvenir item and pointed out that the Secretariat understood from its initial vetting of the application form that the team uniforms were mainly for staff of the organisation and volunteers.

62. Mr YIP Kam-lung remarked that in its actual operation the organisation could decide if it was necessary to give out team uniforms depending on the individual circumstances of the beneficiaries. However, he considered that as the organisation held similar activities every year, it could unify the theme and uniform design but did not need to apply for different team uniforms every year. He indicated that in its future applications for funding, the organisation could list beneficiaries as participants of the project and so it was necessary to give out project uniform to individual beneficiary of bedbug control service. He believed that such approach meant, on one hand, services could be provided to residents in C&W District while on the other hand, they could comply with the requirements of the manual on the use of C&WDC funds.

63. Mr LAM Kwok-wing of SBSH responded that the organisation would take into account the suggestion in its future application of similar funding.

64. Mr KAM Nai-wai indicated that he had also supported the project last year and enquired the organisation if it was successful last year and if the amount being applied was more or less the same as the actual expenditure of last year's project. He agreed that the organisation could produce new team uniforms for recognition and indication that the participants and volunteers were members of the project. As it was applying for the expenditure on 140 team uniforms while the application form noted 168 trips of volunteers, he enquired the actual number of the volunteers, whether it meant 140 individuals would be participating in the project and hence relevant number of uniforms had to be produced, and whether the approach was the same as that in the past. In addition, he quoted the reply of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) that it could not give any comment as the organisation was not subsidised by SWD. He pointed out that the application form noted there would be six salaried staff members and it would involve using DC fund to pay the salaries of them, so he asked if the expenditure was on over time allowances for staff or if

DC fund was required to subsidise part of the existing emolument of staff. He hoped the organisation would give an account of the calculation. He went on to say that he had no comment on the organisation's application for expenditures on the procurement of supplies like protective gears, meal and transport subsidies for volunteers, but he was puzzled as to why an expenditure of \$900 was required to decorate the meeting venue when it needed only several backdrops with the title of the project printed on. He wished to know the detailed information and the location of the meeting venue.

65. Ms WONG Pui-yi of SBSH explained that the organisation would arrange volunteers and staff members to clean the homes of the beneficiaries in two stages. Since the project was held during hot summer and the cleaning locations were rather filthy, each volunteer and staff member would be given two team uniforms for changing. She continued to point out that the organisation would give the remaining uniforms to the needy beneficiaries, whose clothes were contaminated because of the poor environment and severe bedbug problem. On decoration of the meeting venue, she said staff members, volunteers and beneficiaries of the bedbug control operation would be invited to review and conclude the project and a piece of team uniform would be distributed to each of those attendees.

66. Mr LAM Kwok-wing of SBSH said that staff salaries being applied was to pay the volunteers of the organisation willing to assist in the bedbug control and cleaning work but not the salaries of existing staff members.

67. Ms CHENG Lai-king enquired if bedbug control and cleaning workers would be employed as part-time staff. She noted the application form of the project indicated that there would be four volunteers assisting and so it was necessary to apply for meal and transport expenses for four volunteers, and she wished to confirm the figure. She continued to remark that she had been to Sheung Wan to monitor similar bedbug control activities of the organisation in the past and asked the number of units it would be providing bedbug control and cleaning services, and whether the organisation already knew the location of the subdivided units concentrated which needed bedbug control and cleaning services because of the poor environment.

68. Mr LAM Kwok-wing of SBSH said the bedbug control activity mainly targeted several buildings on Ham Yu Street and many flats there were divided into around 10 subdivided units or cubicles. If one of them was infected by bedbugs, others in the same flat would also be affected. Hence, bedbug control operation would be conducted in the whole flat. He said the organisation would be in touch with around 120 subdivided households. On cleaning service, the organisation would mainly clean windows and refrigerators for elderly singletons and those who lacked self-care skills. He went on to point out that the organisation served a smaller number of units last year and he considered there was a need for such service and some residents hoped for more of such service, but it did not have the resources to meet all demands, so he hoped to increase the number of flats to be provided with the services this year. Mr LAM said in its bedbug control operations in the past, the organisation had found that the bedbug situation in the beddings of some units were so serious that they could not be salvaged even after the treatments, and some residents had become used to the bedbug problem because they had been using such beddings for a long time. Hence, the current project would apply for funds to purchase beddings to help those residents.

69. The Chairlady pointed out that bedbug control would require more expertise and

it would be even more difficult to completely solve the problem. So, she asked about the effectiveness in the past and whether the problem would happen again after conducting the service due to environmental factors. She also wished to know if there would be professionals to guide the volunteers in the bedbug control operations or if ready-for-use pesticide against bedbugs from the market would be used for the control and if the protective gears on the application form to be purchased were for bedbug control or for COVID-19.

70. Ms WONG Pui-yi of SBSH said the organisation would purchase special tools and pesticide for bedbug control from professional anti-bedbug companies, which would also provide bedbug control training for the volunteers and staff members.

71. Mr LAM Kwok-wing of SBSH said the effectiveness of the past projects varied and depended on the habits of the beneficiaries. The bedbug control operations of the organisation had short-term effectiveness, but it could not treat the clothing of the beneficiaries on a long-term basis and the problem could only be eliminated if the beneficiaries washed their clothing regularly. He pointed out the effectiveness of the cleaning operations depended on the cleanliness maintained by the beneficiaries, and it was difficult for the organisation to be effective in its operation if the beneficiaries were too slothful to clean up. In addition, he indicated that staff of the organisation would receive training and were experienced in seeking bedbug locations and the organisation would arrange staff members to monitor the whole process. Mr LAM continued to explain that the protective gears would be mainly for preventing bedbugs being carried away from the flats to the clothes of the workers, and so the volunteers would dispose the protective gears immediately after performing bedbug control work to prevent bedbugs from being carried to other places.

72. The Committee endorsed the funding application.

(FC Paper No. 26/2021)

73. The Vice-chairman invited Members to consider granting \$23,900 to Caritas Parents Resource Centre (CPRC) for implementing “In Search of Mindfulness during the Pandemic” and to raise questions and give their views.

74. Ms CHENG Lai-king recalled that the organisation had held similar project at Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park before and wondered if LCSD would refuse to lend the venue to it in view of the epidemic, and she also enquired about the venue of the current project. In addition, concerning the expenditure of \$3,500 on light refreshments stated on the application form, she indicated that as participants had to wear masks during the epidemic, they should not be encouraged to have food during the activity.

75. Ms KO Hoi-ching, Social Worker of the CPRC, indicated that the organisation had reduced the number of participants and scale of the project due to the epidemic, so that the event could be held in CPRC. Since CPRC would be working with other groups to organise other larger activities, their bigger venues would be used for them to allow more participants while maintaining social distance. Moreover, she said that CPRC would not encourage parents to have light refreshments in the middle of the activity, but as most of the beneficiaries had special education needs, CPRC would prepare light food for the parents while waiting to pick up their children. They would not arrange a tea session and ask participants to take off their masks to eat.

76. Ms CHENG Lai-king enquired whether the 20 volunteers, who applied for transport subsidies, were not included in the 100 persons targeted to be benefitted from the expenditure on light refreshments.

77. Ms KO Hoi-ching of CPRC confirmed what Ms CHENG Lai-king said was correct.

78. Mr KAM Nai-wai noted that the Caritas had submitted eight applications to the Committee this time (FC Papers Nos. 26/2021 to 33/2021) involving funding of over \$300,000. He said earlier the Committee had endorsed earmarking \$1.2 million for NGOs to apply for activities in Agenda Item 4, and concerning granting around a quarter of the budget to one single organisation at the start of the financial year, he recalled DC had made arrangement for the funding application limit of one single organisation. However, he considered DC had to deal with and discuss the granting of a quarter of funds to the same organisation at the beginning of the financial year, otherwise it could easily cause problems on considering other funding applications.

79. The Secretary pointed out that at present only CLSAC had set limits for funding applications from other local organisations for civil education, and arts and cultural activities. As for applications for activities from NGOs for direct consideration by the FC, funding for each project was capped at \$30,000 unless there would be more than 500 participants. He continued to note from past experiences that the first meeting of a financial year would see more applications from organisations and the number of applications would dwindle with time, hence he considered a budget of \$1.2 million should be enough to cover all activity applications of the year from NGOs but should the budget become insufficient later, re-allocations for all committees, working groups and categories like central reserve could be made based on the remaining budget, or the provision for categories for application by NGOs could be increased by means of over allocations. As for whether limits had set for the funding applications of one single organisation, he said that there was no such arrangement at the moment.

80. Ms KO Hoi-ching of CPRC remarked that although CPRC and Caritas Community Centre (Caine Road) (CCC) were organisations under the Caritas, the target service recipients of the two centres were different. She indicated that the service recipients of CPRC were children with special education needs as well as their parents, hence though other service units of the Caritas submitted more activity applications currently, she wished to draw Members' attention that the recipients of the applying project were different from those of the other applications.

81. Ms CHENG Lai-king remarked that in the allocation of funding, DC had in the past set aside individual provisions for NGOs, but the arrangement had since been ceased and replaced with one single funding for applications by all local organisations. She indicated that if \$1.2 million was not enough to cover the applications of all local organisations this year, the Committee could consider granting funding by way of over allocations for the necessary projects.

82. The Secretary noted the suggested provision of \$1.2 million was based on the previous funding level of the actual applications of local organisations, and he believed the amount was closer to the actual situation. But if the epidemic eased off this year and resulted in more applications from local organisations, the Committee could then consider re-allocations.

83. Miss YAM Ka-yi enquired about the amount of DC funding applied by local groups

of the Caritas last year.

84. The Secretary said CPRC had not applied for DC funding last year and other organisations under the Caritas had applied over \$300,000 funding from DC.

85. Mr KAM Nai-wai understood the service recipients of CPRC and CCC were different and supported granting the full amount being applied by CPRC for the project. As for the other applications submitted by CCC, though DC had allocated a funding of around \$300,000 to CCC before, his past position was to require not setting a funding limit for individual organisation and he recognised that more local organisations should be encouraged to apply for DC funding, but the issue was not over application of funding by CCC, but the granting of a quarter of the budget (i.e. \$300,000) for all NGOs to one single organisation at the start of the financial year. He opined that in discussing other applications by CCC, the Committee might need to consider leaving some projects for the next meeting to consider and process but not in this meeting, so that the Committee could process the application with those from other organisations. He continued to remark that no single organisation had submitted eight applications taking up a quarter of the provision for the related categories at the start of the financial year last year, hence this meeting had to deal with the issue. Mr KAM suggested to endorse the current funding application by CPRC first and, when processing various applications from CCC later, they could discuss with organisation representatives whether the projects had to be launched immediately or could be left to be discussed in future meetings, such as the ninth meeting of FC to be held on 17 June.

86. The Vice-chairman noted as the “C&WDC Manual on the Use of DC Funds” (C&WDC Manual) had not specified the limit of funding application of one single organisation, it meant the suggestion of Mr KAM Nai-wai was a matter for discussion with the applicant organisation and not a specified requirement, and Members could consider amending the related terms of the C&WDC Manual if it deemed necessary.

87. The Secretary pointed out that due to the rapid development of the epidemic, many organisations had been unable to implement projects as planned. He believed CCC might wish to re-launch last year’s aborted activities as far as possible given the epidemic had eased off somewhat, hence more funding applications were submitted to this meeting. If the Committee would only consider the allocation later, the organisation might not be able to ensure that the projects could be held successfully.

88. The Committee endorsed the funding application.

(FC Paper No. 27/2021)

89. The Vice-chairman invited Members to consider granting \$22,350 to CCC for implementing “Flourish Beyond 50 in the Second Half of Life” and to raise questions and give their views.

90. Ms CHAU Lai-har, Social Work Assistant of the CCC, remarked that it was true that the organisation had not applied for large funding at one single meeting last year. However, because of the epidemic over half of the allocated funds had not been used last year. What’s more was that as the epidemic situation in C&W District was worsened due to the “gym cluster”, some of the postponed projects had to be cancelled altogether. Hence, the organisation hoped to implement more projects now to make up for the services failed to be launched or suspended due to the epidemic situation last year.

91. Ms CHENG Lai-king enquired if the organisation only accepted enrolment applications from retirees or would-be retirees of over 50 years old. On the activities of hiking and visiting an anti-drug organisation listed on the application form, she asked the Secretary if DC could only subsidise either the coach or meal expense. In addition, noting that the organisation would be charging participants tuition for some of the activities, she asked if special subsidies would be provided for the retiree participants of the hiking and visit to the anti-drug organisation depending on their financial situations.

92. The Secretary quoted the stipulation of the C&WDC Manual that generally DC would only subsidise the expenditure on transport of outings not targeted for the elderly or the disadvantaged. He pointed out that as the participants of the project were specified to be elderly aged over 50 and as coach and meal expenses would only take up a small part of the expenditure of the whole project, he believed it would be consistent with the intention of the requirements in the C&WDC Manual, hence the application form and the budget were accepted. However, the Committee could still decide if only coach expense would be granted.

93. Ms CHENG Lai-king opined that the issue had to be handled in a fair manner. Noting that DC had only subsidised either the expenditure on coach or meal, she said Members had to judge if the recipients of the project were elderly or the disadvantaged. She was of the view that if subsidies were granted to both coach and meal expenses, more applications for similar expenditures might appear in future.

94. The Vice-chairman quoted Section 5(F) of the C&WDC Manual and indicated that DC could only subsidise either the coach or meal expenses of outing and camping type of activity while the recipient should not be the disadvantaged. Hence, he was of the view that at present the Committee had to discuss and define if hiking and visiting anti-drug organisation were the same type of activities as outing and camping, and whether the participants of the whole project would be the disadvantaged. He remarked that if the Committee considered the project as an outing and camping activity with participants not from the disadvantaged group, DC could only subsidise the expenditure on coach.

95. Ms CHAU Lai-har of CCC noted that the project had been launched for two years or so and the participants were not entirely the elderly, with around half of them being 65 years old or above, and the rest being recent retirees or not elders. She said if the C&WDC stipulated a certain ratio of the participants of a project had to be the elderly or the disadvantaged for the grant of subsidies of coach and meal expenses, she believed the current project would not be eligible for the subsidies and the organisation was willing to remove the application relating to the expenditure on meals.

96. The Vice-chairman indicated Members had to decide if the hiking and visiting anti-drug organisation activities were outing and camping activities and how to define the disadvantaged. He opined that hiking was an outing and camping activity but visiting anti-drug organisation was of exchange and educational nature and so might not be an outing and camping activity. He enquired other Members' views on whether the participants should be the disadvantaged.

97. Ms CHENG Lai-king had no strong views except that unless the participants were believed to be relatively poor by the organisation, otherwise they should pay for their meals. She was worried that once the precedent was set, other organisations learning that from the live broadcast record would apply for subsidies for both coach and meal expenses in their

funding applications. She considered that the Committee had to handle the application in a fair, just and open manner.

98. Ms NG Hoi-yan declared her membership with the CCC Advisory Committee and indicated that the application form did not show that participants of the funding application would be the disadvantaged and enquired how to define it.

99. Ms CHAU Lai-har of CCC said the project plan had not indicated that the target would be the disadvantaged and that the main service recipients should be retirees and retiree-to-be of over 50 years old.

100. The Secretary pointed out that besides Section 5(F) of the C&WDC Manual quoted by the Vice-chairman just now, Appendix IV specified the same participant of a project could not be given both meal subsidy and souvenir, but it had not specified that an organisation could not apply for both coach and meal expenses involved. Should it considered retirees as still financially capable and did not need meal subsidy, the Committee could make its own decision.

101. Mr KAM Nai-wai enquired the organisation if the application could be postponed for FC to consider in the next meeting or if it would affect the launching of the project.

102. Ms CHAU Lai-har of CCC said postponing the application would affect the project. As various projects of CCC had been shelved because of the epidemic, it hoped to launch some of them as soon as possible. In addition, she said the organisation hoped to recruit retiree participants of the project as volunteers of CCC. With their abilities and knowledge, community resources and education projects could be delivered in a better and more efficient manner. Hence, it hoped to launch the project as soon as possible.

103. The Vice-chairman indicated that as the organisation said the disadvantaged would not be the participants, it would not be necessary for the Committee to make any definition. He suggested that the Committee would not need to subsidise the meal expense of the hiking activity and that as the visit to anti-drug organisation was not an outing and camping activity, the expenditure on meal involved should be granted. He stressed that the Committee was not deliberately making things difficult for the applicant organisation, but that it had to process the funding in accordance with the C&WDC Manual.

104. The Committee endorsed the funding application.

(FC Paper No. 28/2021)

105. The Vice-chairman invited Members to consider granting \$30,000 to CCC for implementing “Sing the Song of Life - Rehabilitation Services for Stroke Patients” and to raise questions and give their views.

106. Ms CHENG Lai-king noted the project was to provide rehabilitation services for stroke patients and enquired if there would be 35 participants in the whole project.

107. Ms CHAU Lai-har of CCC confirmed there would be 35 participants in the whole project. She said the organisation had an internal mutual help group concerned with rehabilitation services for stroke patients and open recruitment would be conducted for special projects. The recruitment would not be limited to group members of the organisation, but open to all interested applicants from Tung Wah Hospital, Queen Mary Hospital and other fellow organisations. She indicated that if the meeting endorsed the allocation, all activities of the whole project would be provided for participants free of

charge.

108. The Committee endorsed the funding application.

(FC Paper No. 29/2021)

109. The Vice-chairman invited Members to consider granting \$27,870 to CCC for implementing “English Summer Workshops for Children” and to raise questions and give their views.

110. Mr KAM Nai-wai made enquiries of the representative of the organisation on whether the application for funding could be left for FC to consider in the next meeting or if funding had to be endorsed in the current meeting as part of the project had been launched. He also hoped other representatives of CCC who were present would give individual response when it was their turn for the Committee to consider the applications of their projects later, so as to provide the Committee with more information for consideration. He went on to quote the responses from SWD on the applications of CCC that the estimated expenditure of each project was reasonable and considered them worth supporting.

111. Mr LAM Yiu-ming, Social Work Assistant of the CCC, indicated that the project was to be implemented during summer, for example, a night eco-tour for family (親子生態夜行活動) would be held in July, an English activity group (英語活動成長小組活動) would end in mid-August before the school term started. Moreover, as the organisation had launched publicity for some summer activities, it hoped to have confirmation of the funding allocation to ensure the project could be organised as scheduled and if not, the organisation had to inform the participants as early as possible.

112. Miss YAM Ka-yi understood Mr KAM Nai-wai's concern about granting a quarter of the provision to a single organisation at the start of the financial year and agreed that it could make it difficult for the Committee to consider other funding applications in future. But after reviewing all project applications of CCC, she found that there was no duplication of recipients and so suggested endorsing the project.

113. Ms CHENG Lai-king enquired if the speaker of “sharing with refugee speaker” referred to in the application at Item (2.2) had ever had refugee status somewhere outside Hong Kong.

114. Mr LAM Yiu-ming of CCC responded that the organisation had been in touch with some refugees allowed to work in Hong Kong by the Immigration Department, some of whom were professionals, and hoped that the project would provide a chance for these people to share their experiences.

115. The Vice-chairman noted that non-refoulement claimants could not take up paid employment in Hong Kong and opined that it was necessary for the organisation to note the wording to avoid involving any legal dispute in paying allowance to guests.

116. The Committee endorsed the funding application.

(FC Paper No. 30/2021)

117. The Vice-chairman invited Members to consider granting \$16,240 to CCC for

implementing “Happy Campus – After-school Homework Tuition and Support Services”. However, as there was an absence of the quorum of eight Members, he adjourned the meeting.

[Note: The meeting adjourned from 4:44 pm to 4:53 pm]

118. Ms CHENG Lai-king indicated that the project should be supported if dedicated persons could be arranged to help grass-root families with homework tuition as some parents had reflected their children’s lack of concentration in their online studies. In addition, she enquired if the project would be held in the conference room of the community centre at the former Western Magistracy Building and if the use of the venue had already been secured with HAD. She indicated that the project should be supported if it was to be held at a venue other than its centre on Caine Road.

119. Mr LAM Yiu-ming of CCC indicated the project had been implemented continuously for two years and it had been held at premises on loan from friendly merchants. But as they could not secured the use of the premises they had to move to the community centre at the former Western Magistracy Building. He said the organisation could borrow the venue free of charge from HAD as an NGO, but the conference room was too small to accommodate around 10 students, one volunteer and one tutor. In addition, he said some parents had complained that their children could not concentrate in online learning and the effectiveness was poor, and as the study environment of grass-root families was not ideal, demands from parents for tuition classes had grown. CCC had also received many enquiries from parents, but due to limited resources and the epidemic situation, the organisation could not entertain all applications.

120. The Committee endorsed the funding application.

(FC Paper No. 31/2021)

121. The Vice-chairman invited Members to consider granting \$27,392 to CCC for implementing “Unlock Your Potential” Youth Development Programme and to raise questions and give their views.

122. Ms CHENG Lai-king enquired if the adventure training camp and volunteers training camp on the application form were two different activities and whether there would be duplication in participants.

123. Mr CHIM Ming-kwong, Social Worker of the CCC, explained that the adventure training camp and volunteers training camp were two different activities and had different targets and participants.

124. The Committee endorsed the funding application.

(FC Paper No. 32/2021)

125. The Vice-chairman invited Members to consider granting \$63,320 to CCC for implementing “Happiness community stay with you” and to raise questions and give their views.

126. Mr YOUNG Chit-on was pleased that the Caritas would organise various projects to benefit local residents of different status, age and background during the epidemic. He

opined that apart from providing masks during the epidemic, different groups had to launch projects for the community to maintain healthy and positive thinking. He cited as example that nations around the world had been developing vaccination plans in recent months and their people were eager to get vaccinated, but the vaccination rate was low in Hong Kong compared with other countries. He understood that the project would be promoting anti-epidemic information and asked if actual vaccination information would be provided for participants who might otherwise not have access to it. He pointed out that people in Hong Kong could get vaccinated on a voluntary basis and free of charge, hence they had to be provided with enough information to make their own decision.

127. Mr WONG Yik-chi, Social Work Assistant of the CCC, indicated that the project would be providing participants with information on the epidemic situation and educational activity, but since it would mainly be about the physical and mental effects of the epidemic, information on vaccination was not included. He pointed out that many people became unemployed and depressed during the epidemic, hence the project was to, through developing community volunteers and linking with local merchants, continue to provide volunteer services and to reach out to subdivided households, retirees and the elderly of low-income families. Moreover, he said the series of activities about inspiring love in the project would include emerging sports experience day to help grass-root students to understand emerging sports, while the family session could also promote emerging sports through taking related pictures.

128. Miss YAM Ka-yi appreciated that the project would be promoting mental and physical health and opined that NGOs could hardly explain government policies in details, hence it would be difficult to ask the applicant organisation to publicise vaccination information in its activities. She remarked that the University of Hong Kong had conducted research on the mental and physical health of Hong Kong people in the past and the results indicated that due to social movements and the epidemic, one in every three residents developed symptoms of depression in 2019 to 2021, hence attention should be paid to the mental and physical health of the public.

129. Mr WONG Yik-chi of CCC pointed out that although the project would not be able to provide correct information on the vaccine and educational work, there was a need to develop community support network and promote community economy. He continued to say that the organisation would promote community volunteer development through linking with local merchants. He said grass-root families had insufficient support during the epidemic, but since CCC was located relatively far away from grass-root families, it was hoped that the project could reach out to participants to promote skills sharing and information exchange.

130. Ms CHENG Lai-king noted the project would be implemented from May this year to February next year and asked the total number of residents in C&W District for whom services would be provided.

131. Mr WONG Yik-chi of CCC explained that online resources sharing production activity would be recruiting volunteers to assist in producing contents of videos, so the 800 service recipients noted were the estimated view rate, and as for the numbers of recipients of other activities of the project, they were the actual numbers of participants of each activity.

132. Ms CHENG Lai-king indicated that as the project would be funded by DC, the copyrights of products and videos produced in the project should be held by DC and she hoped that they would be uploaded on to the webpage of C&WDC for access by other residents when they were browsing the webpage of C&WDC. She also said it would be nice if residents could practice or entertain themselves by following the dances, music and emerging sports promotional videos produced with local features on the webpage.

133. Mr WONG Yik-chi of CCC said the project was expected to include one video on dance, one on music, two promotion ones on emerging sports and two history videos in narrative form to be produced by residents and merchants. The organisation would contact the Secretariat about uploading the videos in due course.

134. Ms CHENG Lai-king enquired if filming would be involved for the series of activities about inspiring love (“躍動心靈”).

135. Mr WONG Yik-chi of CCC cited the emerging sports experience day of the series about inspiring love as an example and said participants of the day would assist in demonstrating the sports and filming the promotional video since the series were mainly about physical activities.

136. The Committee endorsed the funding application.

(FC Paper No. 33/2021)

137. The Vice-chairman invited Members to consider granting \$96,950 to CCC for implementing “Community Mental Health Service Programme 2021: Walking Hand in Hand” and to raise questions and give their views.

138. Ms CHENG Lai-king enquired about the venue for holding the event of the in-patients rehabilitation and integration group (住院病友復康適應小組), and how the organisation would hold the activity while hospitals forbid visits, and the venue to be rented for the workshop of positive thinking parents (正念家長工作坊).

139. Mr WONG Yik-chi of CCC indicated that the organisation had planned similar visits for young volunteers to visit in-patients, but visits were not allowed by hospitals recently due to the epidemic, hence the organisation changed its plan to distribute supplies to in-patients during Christmas and the refreshments and little gifts noted in the application form would be distributed to in-patients as supplies.

140. Concerning the workshop of positive thinking parents (正念家長工作坊), Mr LAM Yiu-ming of CCC indicated that as the organisation was located relatively far away from some residents and because it had held activities relating to positive thinking in Sai Ying Pun in the past, residents nearby were interested in that activity, hence it planned to rent a fee-charging premises of the Central & Western District Association for Culture & Arts on the ground floor of Ko Nga Court, High Street for the activity.

141. The Committee endorsed the funding application.

(FC Paper No. 34/2021)

142. The meeting was chaired by the Chairlady.

143. The Chairlady indicated that the application was submitted by the Incorporated Owners of the Grand Panorama which planned to apply for \$8,000 to organise activities to celebrate Father's Day and Mother's Day, but discussion could not be held as the two representatives who had planned to be present could not attend the meeting due to other commitments. She asked if Members would decide to postpone consideration of the application to the next meeting or intended to continue the discussion in the absence of the representatives.

144. Ms CHENG Lai-king had proposed to postpone consideration of the application to the next meeting with the absence of representatives from the organisation to answer Members' queries, but it involved Mother's Day activities and because of the time constraint, she considered Members could explore how to handle the application. Furthermore, she indicated that the C&WDC had not earmarked funds for owners' corporations before and asked the Secretary if future funding applications from similar organisations would be handled on a first-come-first-serve basis.

145. The Secretary pointed out that owners' corporations were eligible to apply for DC funds. Though there were rare precedents of funding application to the C&WDC from owners' corporations, it was not a reason for rejecting such applications, and the Secretariat submitted the application to FC for Members to decide if the project was reasonable and if activities under it would be open to other residents in the district. He continued to point out that the funding application from the owners' corporation would be allocated from the \$1.2 million open for application by other local organisations. The Secretary understood that Members wished to have representatives attending the Committee to answer their queries and, subject to Members' agreement, the applicant organisation would be informed of the decision after the meeting, and if the organisation wished to launch other projects, it could submit another application form later.

146. Mr KAM Nai-wai indicated that an earlier DC meeting had discussed funding application from owners' corporations. He agreed that DC could not stop those organisations from applying but it was required under the funding criteria for the project to be open for the participation of all local residents. Hence, he considered the Secretariat should have done a better job in its gate-keeping role and if, upon receipt of the application, it was found that the project was not to be open to all residents, the application would not be eligible for DC funding, which also meant funding would not be allocated and it would serve no purpose for the applicant organisation to send representatives to the meeting. He suggested to discuss the handling of and application terms for funding applications from owners' corporations in FC in future if necessary. He said as an example that when Members determined that the project of an owners' corporation was not required to be open to residents, they could discuss if specific terms had to be imposed and reach a consensus. On the application of that project, he said as the current terms specified that the project had to be open for the participation of residents, hence DC should not approve the application for that project. He opined that as the requirement was clearly stated, there was no need for the organisation to submit any application in the next meeting, otherwise Members would only be re-stating the position and decision of DC and the time of other organisations would be wasted in waiting. Mr KAM indicated that unless the applicant organisation could ensure that its project would be open for the participation of all local residents, otherwise it would be informed of the existing C&WDC Manual which specified that no subsidy would be provided for non-open projects. However, DC could review the

requirements in future and the review results could be conveyed to the owners' corporation.

147. The Vice-chairman agreed that there was no need to re-invite the organisation to submit any application and asked if the Secretariat had done any initial screening of the application to ensure its eligibility. He suggested that in explaining the decision of the Committee to the applicant organisation, the Secretary could quote Part (IV)(c) of the C&WDC Manual, which stipulated that projects funded by DC could not be used to provide activities in the specific or personal interests of individuals or a small group of people.

148. The Chairlady indicated that as Members agreed in principle that the project did not meet the requirement of the C&WDC Manual about being open to all residents, the funding application would not be endorsed. She hoped the Secretary would assist in informing the organisation of the decision. In addition, she also asked the Secretary if initial screening of funding application could be made so that if a project of an owners' corporation only provide for residents of the building or housing estate concerned, the application could be rejected in advance on behalf of DC.

149. The Secretary responded that if Members agreed to the decision, which was not to provide funds for owners' corporations for projects not open for local residents, the Secretariat would explain the Committee's position upon receipt of similar applications and reject them.

150. The Committee did not process the funding application.

(FC Paper No. 35/2021)

151. The Chairlady invited Members to consider granting \$203,400 to the Association of the Hong Kong Central and Western District Limited (AHKCWD) for implementation of the "Community Harmony Carnival" in celebration of the 24th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR and to raise questions and give their views.

152. Mr YOUNG Chit-on declared his membership with CW Power and member of AHKCWD, and asked the Chairlady if he should withdraw from the meeting.

153. The Chairlady asked if a subordination and shareholder relationship existed between the two organisations.

154. Mr YOUNG Chit-On indicated that the two organisations did not have a subordination relationship, and that he would not make further clarification as DO(C&W) had already explained the composition and structure of the AHKCWD. However, he was not completely sure if there existed a shareholder relationship between the two of them.

155. Mr YIP Kam-lung asked whether CW Power had voting and decision-making power over AHKCWD.

156. Mr YOUNG Chit-On said that he did not personally have the power to exercise any voting or decision-making rights in AHKCWD.

157. The Chairlady pointed out that in accordance with the Standing Order, Members who held non-official titles of the organiser, joint-organiser or co-organiser of the project, such as Honorary Chairman, Honorary President or Consultant, had to declare interest prior to discussions, and might still participate in the discussions and vote. As Mr YOUNG

Chit-on did not hold any official positions at AHKCWD, he could still participate in discussions, resolutions and voting.

158. Mr YIP Kam-lung indicated that the application stated that the venue would be decorated with banners, and buntings of national flags and regional flags and asked DO(C&W) that if Government guidelines on flying the national and regional flag in public places had imposed any restrictions on flying national and regional flags and the requirements on the disposal of the materials after the event. He was worried that if the Committee allocated the fund, the public would accuse DC of dishonouring the national and regional flags if the organiser dispose of the national and regional flags at will in rubbish bins. He considered that participants of earlier pro-police rally who threw away the national and regional flags in rubbish bins were desecrating those flags and their behaviour was inappropriate. Mr YIP stated that the production of the national and regional flags was regulated under strict specifications, and the organiser might produce national and regional flags not meeting the relevant specifications. He questioned if the Committee should approve the corresponding expenditure of \$3,000 and requested DO(C&W)'s opinion.

159. DO(C&W) stated that he was not an expert in the matter, but as the National Flag Ordinance had been implemented in Hong Kong, all citizens in Hong Kong, including the organiser of the project, had to strictly abide by all the requirements of the Ordinance.

160. Mr YIP Kam-lung said that although he understood that there would be flag-raising ceremonies in celebration of the Establishment of the HKSAR, he questioned whether national and regional flag banners had to be produced as venue decorations, and believed alternative decorations could be used. He was also worried about the organiser's proper handling of flying buntings of national and regional flags, therefore he did not support the Committee to grant the \$3,000 for relevant expenditures. On the other hand, Mr YIP stated that because the event was to be held at Sheung Wan Cultural Square publicly when there were uncertainties regarding future group gathering restrictions and as LCSD had earlier announced to temporarily suspend venue applications for non-designated use, he was worried about DC granting so much funding for such a large scale event might cause the public to congregate in large numbers when group gathering restrictions were still in effect, and would go against the Government's initiative of "Together, We Fight the Virus". Mr YIP remarked that although the government-launched National Security Education Day online activity only attracted over 200 participants, and he did not know why the response rate was so low, he believed the applicant organisation should consider a similar online format so to prevent the public from gathering in crowds. He asked if the organiser had made any arrangements to prevent overcrowding during the event and asked if C&WDO could provide any relevant guidelines as solutions.

161. DO(C&W) remarked that national flags would unquestionably be flown during the celebrations of the reunification and trusted that the organiser would comply with the group gathering restrictions. He said that with the recent rather versatile situation of the epidemic and there was still some time ahead before the project date, it was hard to predict the implementation situation of group gathering restrictions. He was confident that the organiser would carry out necessary measures in response to the situation and abide by all rules, including the National Flag Ordinance and group gathering restrictions.

162. Mr YIP Kam-lung indicated that AHKCWD and its subsidiary members had hung horizontal and vertical banners illegally during various festivals in the past, which posed

hazards to drivers. Hence, he believed there should not be an abundance of publicity materials for this project and that AHKCWD should consider cutting part of their promotion expenditure.

163. The Chairlady said that DC had reported to FEHD of local organisations hanging publicity materials illegally on the streets last year, and asked Mr YIP if the reported organisation was the applicant organisation of the project concerned.

164. Mr YIP Kam-lung answered that AHKCWD was not the reported organisation but one of its group members was. He asked the organisation representative to respond to whether AHKCWD had knowingly broken the law in the past by hanging banners or other publicity materials illegally.

165. The Chairlady asked what kind of sponsor C&WDC would be viewed as if the funding was granted.

166. The Secretary pointed out that the total expenditure of the project was \$269,550, of which around \$203,400 was the funding being applied to DC. According to the C&WDC Manual, if DC funding accounted for 80% of the total expenditure of a project, DC should be considered as the co-organiser or, if not, the sponsor of the project.

167. The Chairlady asked DO(C&W) whether co-organising or sponsoring project organised by an applicant who had previously violated the regulations would damage the reputation of the DC, and if there were any regulations that prevented DC from working with non-compliant organisations.

168. DO(C&W) said that it was unclear if the allegations made were supported with evidence and if there had been court ruling, hence the department did not have any conclusive evidence proving the applicant had committed any violations.

169. The Chairlady asked DO(C&W) if he believed the organisation had never committed any violations.

170. DO(C&W) indicated that the department did not have sufficient evidence to make any judgment at the moment.

171. The Chairlady pointed out that there had been previous discussions of the illegal disposal of flags and promotion items by organisations in DC and DO(C&W) was also present at that time and relevant photos were presented by Members as evidence.

172. Ms NG Hoi-yan indicated that a complaint was made to the FEHD at the time and that she could show Members some photos from that day later. She pointed out that the application listed the number of participants and beneficiaries as 3 000 and the project was to be held at Sheung Wan Cultural Square. She had attended activities at the location before and felt that it was not big enough to accommodate 3 000 people, plus the project would require the setting up of booths, food stalls, inflatable trampolines, changing rooms, first aid stations, reception, and performance stage etc. Thus, she questioned if the remaining area would be sufficient to accommodate various apparatus and 3 000 participants, and requested the organiser to elaborate on the exact area of the project, and whether road closure arrangements were required and if yes, the scope of the affected area. Ms NG felt that because of the long duration of the project and the huge impact of road closures, she hoped the organiser would clarify on the details because previously other groups had wanted to block the areas around the tram routes but was strongly opposed by the Traffic and Transport Committee. She further pointed out that although it was hard to

predict if group gathering restrictions would still be in effect, she would like to know in detail how the organiser could ensure that the public would maintain social distance in a 3 000 people event if government restrictions were still in place when the project was to take place.

173. Mr QIU Song-qing, Standing Vice-chairman of AHKCWD, said that the organisation had held other projects at Sheung Wan Cultural Square before. For this project, they would apply for road closure arrangements from the junction of Cleverly Street and Wing Lok Street to the junction of Morrison Street and Wing Lok Street, as well as a section of road at Morrison Street, which was outside the post office where some of the game booths and stalls would be set up.

174. Ms NG Hoi-yan said that if a stage were to be set up at Sheung Wan Cultural Square, she would like to have more information about venue arrangements such as the PA system. She indicated that noise complaints were received from residents nearby when large scale events were held there in the past, such as the Sheung Wan Promenade Holiday Bazaar, and subsequent discussions were also made by DC. Hence, she would like to know how the organiser planned to handle the noise problems.

175. Mr QIU Song-qing of AHKCWD responded that speakers would be placed facing the direction of the Sheung Wan Cultural Square so as to avoid the noise affecting nearby residents. They would also adjust the sound volume if residents complained against the level of noise.

176. Miss CHEUNG Kai-yin noted that the paper indicated that the project would include a cocktail party where snacks would be served. As the Government had recently issued new anti-epidemic requirements for eateries, she asked if the project would be subject to the requirements, such as whether participants needed to be vaccinated and if a section of the cocktail area to be set aside as “designated area”.

177. Mr QIU Song-qing of AHKCWD responded that all group gathering restrictions would be complied with and if food was prohibited to be served by the time the project began, then the organiser would not provide any food.

178. Miss CHEUNG Kai-yin believed the organiser would comply with the regulations but would like to know how it would separate people who had received only one dose of vaccine from those who had received two doses of vaccine among the 3 000 participants, the arrangements of the “designated area” or other areas of the venue, and how they would be accounted for.

179. Mr QIU Song-qing of AHKCWD indicated that the estimated 3 000 participants included guests, participating residents and spectators, so there would not actually be 3 000 people in the cocktail area at the same time.

180. Miss CHEUNG Kai-yin said that due to the limited space in the venue, even with the planned road closures by the organiser, it would still be very crowded for 3 000 people to dine. She originally thought that 3 000 people would remove their masks to eat at the same time, but it would be feasible if the organiser would only arrange a small number of guests to dine. Miss CHEUNG further stated that because C&WDC would be sponsoring the project, the organiser had to adhere strictly to the regulations to prevent from being misreported by the media that DC was sponsoring projects that violated anti-epidemic measures, and reminded the organiser to pay extra attention to the anti-epidemic

arrangements.

181. Mr KAM Nai-wai said that the name of the project, “Community Harmony Carnival in Celebration of the 24th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR”, made him feel very emotional. He hoped that the event would not only bring joy for tens of thousands of people as he believed the Establishment of the HKSAR this year would have special meaning for a lot of Hong Kong people, and that it would be sad if only tens of thousands out of the 7 million people in Hong Kong would find happiness. Regarding the illegal hanging of horizontal and vertical banners by organisations that other Members mentioned, Mr KAM said that during the previous Establishment Day and National Day, lots of AHKCWD’s flags would be found hanging on road barriers, and he believed the hanging decorations were unlawful. Hence, he would like to ask the organiser if it would continue to hang horizontal and vertical banners under, in his opinion, unlawful circumstances, and would like the corresponding answers to be recorded in the minutes of this meeting.

182. Mr QIU Song-qing of AHKCWD responded that Chinese was a very complex language and that “萬眾同歡” did not mean tens of thousands of people literally.

183. Mr KAM Nai-wai requested Mr QIU Song-qing to respond to his query on whether the illegal hanging of horizontal and vertical banners would be done, and commented that the way he interpreted the meaning and the name of the project was only his personal feelings.

184. Mr QIU Song-qing of AHKCWD pointed out that the wording of the project name meant a lot of people from the community celebrating the reunification together, and it was not indicating a precise number of people.

185. The Chairlady reiterated that Mr KAM was only expressing his own feelings and asked Mr QIU Song-qing to respond to Mr KAM’s queries again.

186. Mr QIU Song-qing of AHKCWD replied that the organisation would hang banners to suit different situations and needs, but there were no records of illegal hanging of publicity materials in previous activities.

187. Mr KAM Nai-wai stated that he would like to put on record that, if funding was allocated by the Committee, he would personally go there and take pictures of the sites during the reunification and National Day celebrations, and if the organiser was found hanging banners and other publicity materials illegally, unless they could produce proof, or future funding would not be allocated to the applicant organisation. Regarding DO(C&W)’s claim that there was no evidence that the organiser had acted unlawfully, he hoped that no one was “lying through one’s teeth”. DC members would check relevant records of past discussions regarding the unlawful hanging of horizontal and vertical banners by the organiser and would like to put on record the organiser’s remarks that there was no unlawful hanging of promotion materials. Mr KAM went on to say that according to the Paper, C&WDC had allocated \$100,000 for reunification celebrations in 2017, but the applied amount was more than \$200,000 this time, way over the amount previously allocated. Furthermore, with over 20 years of experience in community service, Mr KAM believed many of the expenditure items listed in the Paper was unnecessary, for example, the application included spending \$6,000 to procure ceremonial props that would only be used for 15 to 60 seconds and nearly \$4,500 for an inflated archway entrance. Mr KAM did not consider any of those items necessary, as he considered only arrangements

pertaining to the main activity were essential. Mr KAM further pointed out that the variety show by professional troupes (including singers) costing \$90,000 was overstated. Even if the length of various performances lasted from a few minutes to several hours, he believed most of the members of the public would still consider spending \$90,000 on a performance too expensive. On the whole, he believed that even if the expenses such as those for promotion, invitations, sound, stage, booths and prizes were to be reduced by half, the project could still be held smoothly. Therefore, he specifically suggested allocating \$100,000, which was in line with their past practice in 2017. He believed that even if the organisation was unable to cover the remaining expenses itself, it would be able to seek sponsorship elsewhere. Mr KAM further stated that only \$500,000 was earmarked for Festive Celebration Events this year. If as much as \$200,000 were to be granted now, that would be allocating nearly half of the provision to a single organisation, which would be more disproportional than the earlier funding of around \$200,000, which was a quarter of the total provision, to CCC to implement a variety of projects. Hence, he moved to reduce the funding to \$100,000 for the organisation to organise the “Community Harmony Carnival” project.

188. Mr YOUNG Chit-on indicated that as the scale of the project was expected to exceed 1 000 participants, he hoped the organiser would arrange stricter measures to ensure and remind participants and volunteers to comply with the social distancing measures. Mr YOUNG cited Hong Kong Disneyland as an example, saying that persons on rides had to wear masks and scan the “LeaveHomeSafe” mobile application. He suggested the organiser to allocate “designated areas” for persons who had already received two doses of vaccine and those with a valid proof of a negative COVID-19 test result within 14 days, as well as requiring the mandatory use of the “LeaveHomeSafe” mobile application. In addition, Mr YOUNG stated that buntings of National and Regional flags had been regularly used during reunification and National Day celebrations in the past, so wastage was quite normal. However, he considered it an opportunity to educate the next generation to “Reduce, Reuse and Recycle”. Hong Kong, being a relatively more advanced city in China, should set an example and ensure that participants of large-scale events would collect and recycle wastes after the event and help our country to achieve the goal of reducing pollution. He stated that education and projects could complement each other by fostering national identities in the younger generation, as well as educating the public about their responsibilities on global environmental issues, instead of implementing a project of mere entertainment purposes.

189. The Vice-chairman queried on the details of the \$6,000 expenditure on “ceremonial props”, the material of the inflated archway entrance and the cost of \$8,000 for song copyrights. He asked the organiser what specific songs were to be played.

190. Mr QIU Song-qing of AHKCWD replied that the ceremonial props were props consisted of lights and various logos which the guests would use during the opening ceremony. The inflated archway entrance was made of plastic and should be continuously inflated to maintain its shape. In terms of the songs, the organisation planned to play various Hong Kong and overseas pop songs and said that the corresponding copyright fee was inevitable when holding similar ticketing events.

191. The Vice-chairman cited it was mentioned in the Paper that the expenditure relating to the inflatable trampoline amounted to \$6,000, which included the costs of three staff members. He requested the organiser to breakdown the expenditure into rental cost of the

trampoline and staff payroll and thought the two items should not be combined.

192. Mr QIU Song-qing of AHKCWD explained that the trampoline would be rented directly from the production company. As the equipment required supervision by professional staff, hence the production company would be responsible for staff management and the organiser would only provide volunteers to help out.

193. The Vice-chairman followed up on the three staff members responsible for the trampoline, asking whether they were salaried staff or volunteers, and the amount of their salaries.

194. Mr QIU Song-qing of AHKCWD responded that the contractor would provide at least one staff member on site.

195. The Vice-chairman asked again about the pay of the staff members.

196. Mr QIU Song-qing of AHKCWD said that he believed the staff member would be paid around \$50 per hour, and the activity should last for around three hours.

197. The Vice-chairman calculated that the trampoline rental cost \$6,000, minus \$150 for wages, would be around \$5,850. In addition, he pointed out that the project would use \$4,000 as the printing cost of 2 000 A5-size leaflets, averaging the cost of \$2 per sheet. He asked if the leaflets would be printed in colour or black-and-white, and which company would be assigned with the job. He indicated that according to online information, it would only cost \$400 to print 2 000 A5-size leaflets and certain company quoted \$700 for printing 8 000 leaflets, therefore he questioned the said expenditure and asked the organiser if there were any special printing requirements, as well as the details of renting barriers on the budget.

198. Mr QIU Song-qing of AHKCWD explained that the leaflets would be printed in colour, and the price quoted was higher than the Vice-chairman's estimation because it included designing fees. Regarding the rental of barriers, that was for the barricades leased from the production company for the purpose of traffic control.

199. The Vice-chairman reminded the organiser to list the detailed breakdown of the costs. He also questioned the excessive amounts quoted for specific items, as well as the lack of details on some of the items. He believed Members should consider reducing the allocations.

200. Ms NG Hoi-yan stated that discussions on the illegal hanging of horizontal and vertical banners were made during the DC meeting held on 15 October last year and the organisation could make reference to the relevant uploaded minutes of meeting if required. She made the following observations during her local visits on different days at various times and would like the organisation to confirm if the said organisations were subsidiaries of AHKCWD:

- (1) At 2:00 pm on 1 October, there were three vertical banners that belonged to AHKCWD hung along the pavement near the exit of Belcher Bay Park facing Holland Street ;
- (2) At 4:18 pm on the same day, there were a total of 19 vertical banners that belonged to Po Kin Hai Liu Association hung at No. 188 Connaught Road West;

- (3) At 4:34 pm on the same day, vertical banners were found illegally hanging at No. 195 Des Voeux Road West but it was unclear that to whom the banners belonged because they were all rolled up;
- (4) At 5:00 pm on the same day, vertical banners suspected to be properties of Tung Sin Tan were found hanging at Cosco Tower near Jervois Street in Sheung Wan.

201. Ms NG Hoi-yan stated that it was unquestionable that the three vertical banners found hanging on the pavement at the exit at Holland Street belonged to AHKCWD, so she would like to ask if Po Kin Hai Liu Association and Tung Sin Tan were its subsidiary organisations. She indicated that relevant photos were presented to the meeting through the Secretariat at the time, which showed that the vertical banners had been discarded on the ground. The FEHD indicated at the time that it would dispose of the publicity materials as regular rubbish, which she considered to be disrespectful to the organisation. In addition, as sharpened bamboo poles had formed the bottom parts of some vertical banners in the past, she was worried that it would be a safety hazard for passers-by. Therefore, Ms NG asked the organiser if vertical banners would be hung for that project, the numbers of vertical banners to be hung, the method of which they would be reinforced and whether a contact number would be provided for DC to contact the organiser in case any Members found vertical banners to be disposed of illegally, so to avoid wasting resources and disrespecting the applicant organisation.

202. The Chairlady asked if prior approval would be required from the Lands Department (LandsD) when hanging vertical banners and other publicity materials for events.

203. DO(C&W) responded that all organisations, particularly those receiving DC funding, had to adhere to relevant Hong Kong legislations when implementing events, including relevant guidelines regarding the hanging of publicity materials and the group gathering restrictions.

204. The Chairlady believed, from DO(C&W)'s reply, that the organisation had to obtain approval from LandsD before hanging any vertical banners and the relevant department would decide on the vertical banner locations.

205. Mr QIU Song-qing of AHKCWD indicated that the items and quantities of publicity materials would be produced as stated in the funding application.

206. Ms NG Hoi-yan said that she would provide the photos she took earlier of the discarded vertical banners of the organisations. She pointed out that since the disposal of vertical banners and other publicity materials was most likely to be carried out by volunteers and Mr QIU might not be fully aware of the situation. She considered it would affect public perception if the vertical banners and other publicity materials were to be illegally disposed of and hoped the organisation would pay special attention to the issue. Furthermore, Ms NG was concerned about the sharpened bamboo poles and hoped the organisation would take special care on safety during installation. She pointed out that the photos clearly showed that the vertical banners were abandoned on the ground and that the publicity materials belonged to the applicant organisation. She found it unsatisfactory that the banners of the event held on 1 October last year was discarded by FEHD even before the event started. Ms NG continued to present other photos which showed that the

bottom part of the sharpened bamboo pole was extremely sharp and hoped that the organisation would handle the problem properly and adhere to the relevant requirements of LandsD regarding the hanging of banners, for instance, publicity materials were prohibited to be hung within 30 metres on the traffic upstream side of zebra crossings. Ms NG said that as the project was to be held on public holidays, it would be difficult to contact various government departments for assistance on the day and asked if the organisation would implement measures to rectify the bamboo pole sharpness and the problem concerning the hanging of vertical banners.

207. Mr QIU Song-qing of AHKCWD replied that vertical banners would not be hung for the project which would be implemented according to the items listed in the application form and he had no further information to add.

208. Ms NG Hoi-yan wished to confirm that the project would be implemented according to the items listed in the application and that there would be no additional publicity materials. The reason for her repeated question was to ensure the safety of the residents and all the applicant organisation had to do was ensure such problems would not arise or provide a reinforced method to install the publicity materials. She was concerned that publicity materials not mentioned in the application would appear on the day that would present problems similar to those shown in the photos which would give the residents a negative impression of the project.

209. Mr QIU Song-qing of AHKCWD stated that they would not do anything that would harm the residents.

210. Ms CHENG Lai-king enquired if the four proposed 3 ft x 20 ft promotional horizontal banners would be the only publicity materials for the project. She explained the size of horizontal banners approved by LandsD for DC Members was 3 ft x 8 ft, and questioned if the size of the project banners met with relevant requirements.

211. Mr YIP Kam-lung pointed out that LandsD stipulated that horizontal banner size should be 3 ft x 8 ft, and that no more than two banners could be displayed at L-shaped intersections, and only one banner could be displayed at other designated spots. General organisations could only apply for hanging one horizontal banner, therefore their materials would also be limited to 3 ft x 8 ft, as such the size of the horizontal banner being applied by the organisation did not meet with the requirements of LandsD. He further pointed out his concerns on the safety of holding a cocktail party in a public area if group gathering restrictions were still in effect, hence he considered such expenditures to be unnecessary.

212. The Chairlady said that a funding of around \$200,000 was being applied for the project but because the information submitted by the organisation representative was insufficient and lack of details, she considered the organisation insincere in its application and suspected that they were making fun of DC Members. She stated that Members had always made detailed enquiries when considering funding applications for other projects, and other organisations had all been able to provide detailed information. The Chairlady said that funding for that project was originally intended to be allocated from the provision of \$1.2 million for NGO applications as DC had not yet approved this year's budget when the Secretariat received the application. However, as the nature of the project was similar to festive celebration events, she suggested that the final amount approved by the Committee for that project could be allocated from this year's provision for the Festive Celebration Events for applications by NGOs later if necessary. The Chairlady explained

that she made the suggestion to be fair to all parties because other NGOs would still be able to submit applications for Establishment Day and National Day celebration projects, and asked the Secretariat if they were planning to invite local organisations to submit applications from the approved provision for the year.

213. The Secretary responded that if the Committee thought that funding for that project should be allocated from the Festive Celebration Events provision, then arrangements could be made accordingly. However, as the category was under the responsibility of the Working Group on C&WDC Affairs, how invitations for funding applications were to be sent to local NGOs would have to be discussed by the working group in future meetings. He further indicated that as Members were proposing to reduce the allocation to \$100,000, he would suggest postponing consideration of the application for the applicant organisation to consider if the allocation would be sufficient and resubmit an amended budget if necessary for circulation among Members by the Secretariat after the meeting, and the funding would be allocated from the Festive Celebration Events provision.

214. Ms CHENG Lai-king suggested that to facilitate the project planning work, it would be simpler to approve the application in this meeting, provided that the organisation would agree to reduce the amount being applied to \$100,000 and proceed with the project preparation.

215. Mr QIU Song-qing of AHKCWD replied that the organisation would not consider accepting reducing the application amount to \$100,000 by DC.

216. Ms CHENG Lai-king suggested that the organisation seek open sponsorship.

217. Mr QIU Song-qing of AHKCW responded that it could seek open sponsorship, however the sponsorship had already been included in the budget calculations.

218. The Chairlady said that in the budget approved by the Committee earlier, only \$500,000 was allocated for Festive Celebration Events that was available for NGO projects that included reunification and National Day activities. If over \$200,000 was approved for that project, it would take up about 40% of the provision and would be unfair to other interested applicant organisations. The Chairlady expected that there would be more National Day celebration events approvals to be forthcoming, of which the organisations would apply for more funding. She was concerned that DC would be unable to provide funding for other NGOs organising National Day events if too much funding was approved now and hoped the organisation would understand their difficulties.

219. Mr YIP Kam-lung was doubtful if the project concerned could be carried out successfully on 1 July with group gathering restrictions still in force. He stated that it was mentioned in the application document that there would be 3 000 participants and 30 performers. Although it was unclear that to what extent the group gathering restrictions would be relaxed by that time, recent court judgments on group gathering cases indicated that even if participants were to maintain a social distance of 1.5 metres, as long as they were gathering in the same public area for the same purpose, the prohibition of the group gathering restrictions would be applicable. In other words, as long as the group gathering restrictions were still in force, there was a limitation placed on group gathering, even if the participants were to maintain a constant traffic flow, it would be impossible to organise an event with 3 000 participants. Consequently, he asked the organisation if there were any contingency plans if it could not hold their intended large-scale project because of group gathering restrictions, for instance, other applicant organisations were considering holding

their events online.

220. Mr QIU Song-qing of AHKCW responded that they would consider postponing the project as appropriate.

221. Mr YIP Kam-lung indicated that it was understandable that celebrations for the Establishment of the HKSAR needed not to be held on 1 July. He said that DC had intended to organise a planting day. However, according to the LCSD, all venues under LCSD had to be restricted, and projects had to be attended by invited guests only for a venue to be considered as non-public area. Mr YIP commented that it would be very difficult to operate booths on a by-invitation-only basis and asked the organisation if it had any corresponding measures.

222. Mr QIU Song-qing of AHKCW responded that he had no further comments.

223. Mr YIP Kam-lung stated that if it was obvious that the project would breach the group gathering restrictions, DC would become an accomplice if it endorsed the project through funding. Hence, he believed the organiser should consider postponing or cancelling that project if group gathering restrictions did not relax by the time for large-scale public projects.

224. Mr QIU Song-qing of AHKCW reiterated that the project would be held in accordance with the Government's restrictions on group gathering.

225. Mr KAM Nai-wai said he would specifically raise a motion for FC of DC(C&W) to support the allocation of \$100,000 to AHKCW for the organisation of the "Community Harmony Carnival in Celebration of the 24th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR" project. After listening to other Members' opinions, he considered that the following conditions should be imposed: (1) The project had to be in compliance with the Government's restrictions on group gathering; and (2) the organiser had to submit the financial breakdown of the project for FC's consideration after the meeting. Mr KAM considered the two conditions to be the minimum requirements for the funding approval and stressed that Mr QIU Song-qing had every right to decline these conditions and notify the Committee their wish to cancel the project. He specified that the suggestion was just an indication of DC's stance. Hence, DC would support the allocation of \$100,000 for the organisation of the project only if the two conditions were met. He hoped the Chairlady would open the voting based on his impromptu motion and related terms for Members' deliberation. After the vote, if the organisation should indicate that \$100,000 was insufficient to hold the project and refuse to accept the terms, it would be a decision for AHKCW to make. Mr KAM reiterated that the Committee's various appropriations were made based on the financial situation of DC and the nature of the projects, and it was clearly exercising its rights to make such appropriation decisions.

226. The Chairlady stated that the funding application of Paper No. 36/2021 was also for reunification celebrations. In addition, provision for festival celebration events would be open for application by other local organisations to implement other festive celebrations as well, hence more financial resources would be required to support National Day celebration events. She hoped that Mr QIU Song-qing would understand that if about 40% of the provision was to be allocated at this meeting, the Committee would have difficulties in handling other applications in the future.

227. Ms CHENG Lai-king asked if the applicant organisation would consider reducing

the scale of the project as DC only had a total provision of \$500,000 for festive celebration events to promote National Day, reunification and other festive celebration activities. She believed the organisation could consider reducing the scale of the project to cater for fewer participants, and relevant requirements of group gathering restrictions would also be met. She hoped the organisation would consider the suggestions after the meeting.

228. After voting, the following impromptu motion was adopted:

Impromptu motion: The Finance Committee of the Central and Western District Council supports the allocation of \$100,000 to the Association of the Hong Kong Central & Western District Ltd. to organise the “Community Harmony Carnival”. The event must be in compliance with the Government’s restrictions on group gathering. Also, the organiser must submit the financial breakdown of the event to this Committee for approval.

(Proposed by Mr KAM Nai-wai and seconded by Ms CHENG Lai-king)

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

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

(0 abstention vote)

[Note: The applicant organisation had amended the funding application to \$100,000 and the amended application was circulated among Members by the Secretariat on 3 May and was endorsed on 7 May.]

(FC Paper No. 36/2021)

229. The Chairlady invited Members to consider granting \$71,590 to Hong Kong Central and Western District Women Association (the Women Association) for implementing the 9th “Reunification Cup” in Central & Western District - Fitness Dance Competition cum Dancing Fun Night 2021 in Celebration of the 24th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region” and to raise questions and express their views.

230. Mr YIP Kam-lung opined that DC should set a special requirement on the numbers of participants of cultural and arts projects, which meant only projects with the specified number of participants would be eligible to apply for funding exceeding the specified amount. Therefore, he asked the organisation about the number of participants of similar projects held in the past.

231. Ms CHIU Wah-kuen, Chairlady of the Women Association, indicated that the project had been implemented for eight years and on average there were about 1 000 participants every year, of which over 400 were competitors and over 500 were spectators.

232. Mr YIP Kam-lung indicated that he had asked the question to avoid confusion because the Paper only showed that participants or beneficiaries of the project would be about 1 000 and now he learnt that the number included both competitors and spectators.

He was worried that the project would be affected by the social distancing restrictions. At the moment, it could not be assessed the extend of the relaxation of the group gathering restrictions and as the project would be held for a duration of more than 12 hours and subject to the restriction on the number of people to public activities, he enquired about the contingency plan of the Women Association if the project could not be implemented due to the social distancing restrictions.

233. Ms CHIU Wah-kuen of the Women Association indicated that the project would be implemented in accordance with the requirements of the social distancing restrictions of the Government and the Women Association had applied to hold the project at Hong Kong Park Sports Centre of LCSD, and if the venue had restrictions on the number of participants, the Association would comply with the requirements when implementing the project.

234. Mr YIP Kam-lung noted that according to the C&WDC Manual, the maximum allocation for a project with less than 500 beneficiaries should be \$30,000 and asked the Secretary if the project was only a festival celebration activity or if it should also be counted as a cultural and arts project.

235. The Secretary indicated that funding for the project could be allocated from the budget for Festive Celebration Events which included National Day celebrations and reunification activities, since the \$3.38 million allocation for cultural and arts for the year had been included in the funding of about \$18.49 million to DC this year, all categories could use the dedicated allocation to implement arts and cultural projects and the project concerned also met the requirements of the dedicated allocation for arts and cultural activities.

236. Mr YIP Kam-lung was worried that even though the Women Association promised to comply with the prevailing requirements of the social distancing restrictions in implementing the project, if there were less than 500 participants because of the restrictions, it would contravene the requirements of the C&WDC Manual in allocating over \$30,000 to the Women Association. He asked the views of other Members.

237. Mr YOUNG Chit-on indicated that the applicant organisation had held many similar competitions in the past and considered its achievement was well-recognised, so he considered the project would set a goal for the residents and should be supported. He continued to remark that he was worried about the dancing activity because of the earlier epidemic outbreak in the “dance cluster”. He cited the charity relay he joined earlier as an example, in which the organiser had required all participants to put on their masks at all times and still the event was held successfully. He therefore asked if the Women Association would also require participants to put on their masks.

238. Ms CHIU Wah-kuen of the Women Association indicated that the dance competition would be organised into groups of two and the participants would be required to wear masks while full anti-epidemic measures would be implemented.

239. Mr KAM Nai-wai remarked that the project had been organised for many years and had a long history, but he agreed with Mr YOUNG Chit-on. Even though Ms CHIU Wah-kuen said the competition would be organised into groups of two, there had been an outbreak of the epidemic in the “dance cluster” earlier and there was a similar outbreak in Korea in March and April last year because of a local “dance cluster”. Mr KAM explained that it was because the participants took off their masks when dancing and the physical exertion, while the indoor environment had exacerbated the situation, and it was just like

the situation of “gym cluster” in recent days. He therefore asked, even if it had agreed by the venue provider, whether the Women Association would consider scaling down the project to avoid holding large scale events like those held in the past and gathering many participants in the venue, for otherwise the situation would be of great concern even if participants had been vaccinated with Sinovac vaccine which had a protection rate of 50% only, which meant there was still a 50% chance of infection. Moreover, on the expenditure of the project, Mr KAM considered some expenses could be cut consequently, for example, the expenditure of \$2,000 for “designing and production of publicity leaflets”; \$1,000 for “admission tickets”; \$1,000 for “event supplies/miscellaneous items”; and \$4,000 for “designing and printing of competition certificates”. He remarked that at least half of the expenditure of the items could be cut. He was puzzled as to why “invitations and designs” would cost \$2,400. He assumed that publicity materials, including leaflets, posters, invitations and admission tickets would all be designed by one person, and so, overall speaking, if participants of the project were to be cut, the relevant expenditure could be reduced as well, such as those for “reception and refreshments”. Since the project would be held indoor, the expenditure could be further lowered if the number of participants were to be reduced. Mr KAM continued to remark that some of the expenditure were unnecessary, such as the 6 ft x 8 ft panel for signatures and photography, which was relatively non-essential for the project. Mr KAM remarked that he regularly organised activities and so he doubted the high costs for background music, sound and lighting, but he conceded some expenditure were necessary, such as payments for music copyrights and professionals to sign structure safety certificates. He indicated that if the project could be scaled down and based on the reduction of the expenditure he just suggested, the \$71,590 DC funding to be applied by the Women Association for that project could be reduced by \$25,400. Specifically he suggested that the Committee could allocate \$46,000 to the Women Association for organising that project under the conditions endorsed by FC in considering FC Paper No. 35/2021, which were: (1) the project had to be in compliance with the Government’s restrictions on group gathering; and (2) the organiser had to submit the financial breakdown of the project for FC’s consideration after the meeting, but it also depended if the Women Association could comply with the above two conditions and arrange participants to wear masks in the course of the event. He hoped Ms CHIU Wah-kuen would respond to the above queries.

240. Ms CHIU Wah-kuen of the Women Association indicated that the sports dance competition of that project and partying were different activities and the outbreak of the epidemic among the local and overseas “dance cluster” that Mr KAM pointed out was because the participants did not put on their masks, and though the duration of competition was long, the Women Association would arrange to hold the activity in sessions, so that not all participants would be dancing in the venue at the same time. On the suggestion of cutting the amount of funding being applied for, she considered the expenditure that Mr KAM proposed to cut were necessary ones, and as for the quotation of the designer of the publicity materials, there was nothing that the Women Association could do, so she considered the level of expenditure was required for that project.

241. Miss YAM Ka-yi indicated that though the Committee had not made a decision on the final allocation amount, as the Women Association would be charging an enrolment fee from participants, she specifically suggested the fee could be adjusted say, from \$100 to \$150, which she believed would make up the difference. She hoped the Women Association would take it into consideration. She hoped the Women Association would

understand that it was not that the Committee was not supportive of that project but the funding was limited.

242. Ms CHIU Wah-kuen of the Women Association indicated combating the epidemic had taken a toll on the public both physically and mentally. Earlier some residents had enquired if that project would be implemented this year and the Women Association had replied it was applying for funding from DC and would be launching the project as soon as funding had been allocated. She indicated participants ranged from six to over 70 years old, and opined that residents would be in need of the event as it could help participants to relieve their stress. On the suggestion of increasing the admission charge to \$150, she considered there could be different views on the rate of increase but some participants might find a 50% increase unacceptable, and hoped Members would not be so “petty” as to collect the difference from the pockets of the residents.

243. The Chairlady indicated that Members were not being “petty”, but an extra \$500,000 had to be earmarked for celebration activities for the reunification and National Day this year while funding to DC had not seen any increase from last year’s. Consequently, for the sake of fairness, the Committee could not allocate too much funding and was asking other organisations to the meeting to reduce the funds they were applying for.

244. Ms CHIU Wah-kuen of the Women Association indicated that she had no idea that the Committee was asking other organisations to cut their expenditure.

245. The Chairlady indicated AHKCWD had applied for a funding of around \$200,000 from DC but the Committee had agreed to limit the provision to \$100,000. Moreover, she hoped the Association appreciated that the reunification and National Day celebrations activities had only a budget of \$500,000, and as there was some time to go before the celebration of the reunification, to be fair to organisations interested in organising those activities, it was hard to allocate the whole amount being applied for.

246. Mr YOUNG Chit-on understood what other Members were saying that as the meeting had only just endorsed the budget for this year, to avoid an over-budget situation caused by too many funding applications by NGOs later, the Committee could not allocate too much funding now for the sake of fairness. However, he was worried that Members had to bear the responsibility for not allocating the funds in full should it turn out that there were not too many funding applications. He was also puzzled as to why the Committee was de facto “punishing” organisations which made early planning and submitted timely funding applications. He was not sure if there had been precedents and was worried that organisations would postpone their applications consequently to cope with such practice of the Committee. He continued to point out that if inadequate funding had been allocated at the end of the financial year, the Government might “turn off the water supply” and the Committee could only have itself to blame.

247. The Secretary pointed out as the Working Group on C&WDC Affairs had yet to discuss and open for application by local organisations the \$500,000 earmarked for Festive Celebration Events, funding for that project and that of Paper No. 35/2021 had been intended to come from the \$1.2 million provision open for all NGOs to apply for activities. He asked Members to take note of it.

248. The Chairlady proposed, in view of the nature of the project and the issue of fairness, that the same amount could be allocated from the \$500,000 earmarked for Festive

Celebration Events to this year's provision for "applications by other local organisations" if necessary.

249. Mr KAM Nai-wai responded to the views of Mr YOUNG Chit-on and opined that it was all a matter of rationality. He conceded that there was some logical reason for granting a quarter of the \$1.2 million earmarked for applications by NGOs in the beginning of the financial year, but what he had been questioning earlier was granting a quarter of the provision to the same organisation. He continued to point out that as \$500,000 had been earmarked for activities to celebrate the reunification and National Day, if Members was to allocate, at this meeting, all the funds being applied for by the two projects (the application under discussion and that of Paper No. 35/2021) to celebrate the reunification, i.e., around \$280,000, it would take up over half of the provision. He therefore considered it was very important for the Committee to ensure the resources were used effectively in its decision, not to mention the fact that the provision for celebrative activities had yet to be open for applications by local organisations, hence DC had to preserve certain financial capability. Mr KAM went on to say that he understood the point being made by Mr YOUNG Chit-on, if the Committee refused to allocate funds in the beginning of the financial year until towards its end, the funding might end up not properly used. But as he had pointed out last year, the Committee had to review its funding situation before or after the summer holidays, for example if it found out funds had not been effectively allocated when it resumed meeting in September after the August recess, it had to be dealt with. He agreed with Mr YOUNG Chit-on and considered it was just one of the reasons for granting funding by the Committee, but not the only reason. He had reviewed a total of 29 estimated expenditures of that project and, as one who regularly organised activities, he was very clear how **saving of the expenses should be made**. As regards his proposal of cutting the budget of that project by around \$25,000, i.e., the Committee only needed to allocate around \$46,000, he could analyse one by one the expenditure items that he considered could be cut. Specifically, he proposed to cut \$25,000 or so from the expenditure of \$71,590 originally applied by the Women Association so as to allocate a total of \$46,000 only. He believed the Women Association would not be so hampered as to implement the project with that amount. He had also moved an impromptu motion on the practice and hoped the Chairlady would deal with it later.

250. Miss YAM Ka-yi wished to know the breakdown of the proposed funding of \$46,000.

251. Mr KAM Nai-wai indicated that he could analyse the expenditure items that he proposed to cut one by one, but as requested by his impromptu motion, if the Women Association's amendment of its expenditure estimate for the project in response to the decision of the Committee resulted in an estimate different from his, a new estimate had to be submitted to the Committee after the meeting. He continued to put forward the proposed expenditure to be cut as follows:

(1) the expenditure of \$2,000 on "designing and production of publicity leaflets" to be cut to \$1,000;

(2) the expenditure of \$1,000 on "event supplies/miscellaneous items" to be deleted altogether as the Women Association had not specified what the supplies were;

(3) the expenditure of \$4,000 on "designing and printing of competition certificates" to be cut to \$2,000;

(4) the expenditure of \$500 on “guests sponsor souvenirs” was acceptable but the expenditure of \$2,000 on “photography” should be cut to \$1,000. He explained that a funding of \$2,000 was also being applied for the “production of DVD” in the budget and the two jobs should be handled by the same staff members, and so he proposed to cut the expenses by \$1,000;

(5) the expenditure of \$2,400 on “invitations and designs” to be cut to \$1,200;

(6) on “reception and refreshments”, he proposed cutting the expenditure from \$3,000 to \$1,500 as it would be hard to hold the activity concerned;

(7) from his past experiences in organising indoor activities, about \$7,000 to \$8,000 would be enough to cover the four expenditure items of “backdrop”, “sound”, “red carpet for stage” and “lighting”, for which a total amount of \$14,000 was being applied for, he proposed to cut the funding application by \$7,000;

(8) on “panel for signatures and photography”, since the installation was only for taking pictures and the backdrop and banner could be used instead and the project could still be implemented without the panel, he proposed deleting the funding application of \$2,200 altogether;

(9) on “programme design and printing”, from the experience of Members, the expenditure should be cut from \$5,000 to \$1,000; and

(10) on the \$6,000 being applied by the Women Association for “awards (medals and trophies)”, he considered the project could still be implemented with half of the expenditure and so proposed cutting it to \$3,000.

252. From the above, Mr KAM estimated that a saving of around \$25,000 could be made for the expenditure of the project and, after rounding up, the Committee would only need to allocate \$46,000 or so to the Women Association. He continued to point out that his estimate would not make it impossible to implement the project, and that offset printing might be used instead of colour printing for publicity materials of the Women Association, which would generate similar publicity effects. He hoped other Members would support his impromptu motion.

253. After voting, the following motion was adopted:

Impromptu motion: The Finance Committee of the Central and Western District Council supports the allocation of \$46,000 to the Hong Kong Central and Western District Women Association to organise “the 9th ‘Reunification Cup’ in Central & Western District – Fitness Dance Competition cum Dancing Fun Night 2021”. The event must be in compliance with the Government’s restrictions on group gathering. Also, the organiser must submit the financial breakdown of the event to this Committee for approval.

(Proposed by Mr KAM Nai-wai and seconded by Ms CHENG Lai-king)

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

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

(0 abstention vote)

[Note: The applicant organisation had amended the funding application to \$45,590 and the amended application was circulated among Members by the Secretariat on 3 May and was endorsed on 7 May.]

Item 7: Inspection of DC-funded activities

(6:52 pm to 6:54 pm)

254. The Chairlady indicated that the meeting had considered and granted funding to a total of nine projects from NGOs, and to follow the practice in the past, one third of them, i.e., **three** projects would be selected for inspection:

FC Paper No.	Project Title	Applicant Organisation
Paper No. 25/2021	Fighting the Pandemic Together in the Central and Western District	Saint Barnabas' Society and Home
Paper No. 26/2021	In Search of Mindfulness during the Pandemic	Caritas Parents Resource Centre
Paper No. 33/2021	Community Mental Health Service Programme 2021: Walking Hand in Hand	Caritas Parents Resource Centre

Item 8: Any Other Business

(C&W FC Paper No. 38/2021)

(6:54 pm to 7:06 pm)

255. The Chairlady invited Members to note FC Paper No. 38/2021 and to raise questions and give their views.

256. Mr KAM Nai-wai indicated that an earlier DC meeting had mentioned about street washing and he noted the Paper showed street washing was still being carried out under the District-led Actions Scheme (DAS), but he heard that it would be cancelled. If the department would continue the street washing and clearing of pigeon droppings services, he hoped that it would provide the schedules of the services, which had been requested repeatedly by DC. Mr KAM reiterated that it was not necessary to list the year, month,

day and time of operation in the schedules, but it should at least provide a time frame, for example, on which day of the week during morning or afternoon the services would be carried out so that Members could monitor the work. On local education service, he enquired if staff of the C&WDO had visited recently the arts exhibition on sewer installation (渠筒裝置藝術展覽) and if they knew some of the installation had fallen apart. He indicated that he passed by the exhibition site every day and queried if the staff had carried out any monitoring of the exhibition. Since the exhibition articles had been assembled by adhesion and sealed off with plastics, it would fall apart even more easily under the sun and rain and would pose a danger. He therefore asked how long the C&WDO would take to make repairs to the arts installation once it discovered the problem and he was puzzled as to why the department allowed open exhibition of the installation. In addition, Mr KAM asked if the department had considered local education service could complement the “container” children gallery at WE Park by holding more anti-epidemic and health education activities. He remarked that it being an open space was well-received by parents and he considered the “container” facilities there could be used to implement more education related work. As summer was coming and the weather was getting very hot, he also suggested the department to consider holding the project in autumn, and he hoped the department would respond to it.

257. The DO(C&W) indicated that as he had pointed out in other meetings, the requested schedules of street washing would be affected by pedestrian flow, traffic and contractor considerations, they would be kind of in flux. Hence, the schedules would not be provided to avoid misunderstanding among residents.

258. Mr KAM Nai-wai asked, as the department refused to provide the schedules of street washing in advance, if it would provide the schedules after conducting the cleaning work, for example, if the contractor had completed washing Lyttelton Road in the morning on a Wednesday, the schedule of washing could be provided to DC after the completion of the relevant report. He considered the department was being evasive and saying no all the time about providing the information in advance, and even turning down DC’s requests for perusal of the information. He considered it was feasible as regards the request on providing the information after the work had been carried out. Mr KAM continued to remark that the report should state the locations and schedules of the washing services of every quarter of the year for DC Members to monitor if the contractor had been slothful or if street washing had been completed properly.

259. DO(C&W) indicated that as it involved a lot of manpower, the department needed time to study whether the suggestion was feasible. On the installation of the sewer installation arts exhibition mentioned by Mr KAM, he indicated that the office had noted the issue and a colleague in charge would give an explanation later. He continued to indicate that the department could consider holding anti-epidemic and health education activities at the “container” children gallery at WE Park.

260. Miss LO Wai Ling, Senior Liaison Officer (Building Management)³ of the C&WDO, indicated that the “sewer” installation was set up in February 2021 and would be dismantled soon. She said the department had sent staff members to conduct site visits and repair works would be conducted upon discovering damages, or removal of the

installation would be carried out if repair works could not be done.

261. Mr KAM Nai-wai remarked that he found the area of the “sewer” installation had been restricted by the department in recent days and asked the department if it was for anti-epidemic reason or some other reasons. He went on to point out that the playgrounds of LCSD had been re-opened and queried why the “sewer” installation was not.

262. Miss LO Wai Ling of C&WDO indicated that whether the site would be re-opened would be subject to the re-opening of the children playground facilities by LCSD. Since LCSD had resumed the services of all playground facilities in early April, the department had likewise removed the fences from the site.

263. Ms CHENG Lai-king indicated that she was informed by the Assistant District Officer (C&W) (ADO(C&W)) earlier that street washing would be carried out in the morning on 2 March 2021, and it was found that some workers had been washing streets from Caine Road Garden at No. 144 Caine Road towards the east at around 10:45 am. She said the department had told her the area from Nos. 100 to 144 Caine Road would be washed and she had stationed at her ward office nearby in the hope of assisting in monitoring. However, the contractor completed the job while she was busy answering calls from residents, so she was unable to monitor the job. In addition, a nearby resident told her that the contractor just cleaned the street perfunctorily and just performed cleaning works from the east gate of Caine Road Garden to No. 138 Caine Road. She had intended to contact ADO(C&W) to follow up on the matter but was too busy with other official business. Ms CHENG remarked that the contractor just cleaned the street perfunctorily and had not done any sweeping, not to mention clearing the dog droppings on the street. Hence, she was not clear if the department had actually monitored the work or if a complaint should be lodged to the Audit Department about the street washing service which was the responsibility of the department. Ms CHENG remarked that she sought help from FEHD later and a thorough cleaning was conducted after an inspection by their staff members. She said she was not making a comparison of the performance of the two departments, but DC Members were duty-bound to conduct monitoring based on information supplied by the department, but the department indicated that it was unable to tell DC Members the street washing schedules, making it impossible for them to do any monitoring. Ms CHENG indicated that as a DC Member, she had a duty to monitor the work, and asked if it was possible to give only half of the payment to the contractor responsible for the street washing job concerned. She considered under the circumstances that she was unclear about any information of the company and the payment involved, the way it was handled was unfair to residents at Caine Road. She understood that the payment was not released by DC, but it was public funds all the same and residents had a duty to monitor if it was being properly used. Ms CHENG continued to point out that if streets were washed in such a perfunctory manner every time, it would not be effective at all, hence she was very disappointed with the service.

264. The Chairlady believed the department had not sent staff members to monitor the work. She was told by residents that the contractor had not used blocking panels when washing Forbes Street and water was splashed all over the place. She had conveyed the problem to FEHD afterwards, hoping that some improvements could be made but was told

by FEHD that the service was not provided by the department. After communicating with C&WDO, she found that the contractor was appointed by the District Office. She remarked that as the department refused to inform DC Members in advance for monitoring the work, she hoped it would send staff members to do the monitoring more regularly to avoid the recurrence of such unhygienic situations. In addition, she said even though DC might not be clear about the cleaning level of the service, local residents would keep DC Members informed of the performance of the contractor based on their observations at different time and locations, hence she hoped the department would ensure public funds were used properly and monitor the performance of the contractor more frequently.

265. Mr KAM Nai-wai remarked that C&WDO had concealed the facts of the street washing from DC repeatedly, and gave a final warning to DO(C&W) that if the department refused to provide the street washing schedules to DC in future, he would ask the Chairlady to write to the Audit Department and the Ombudsman. He indicated that the practice was unacceptable from the perspective of DC and the department had refused to provide the street washing schedules that DC only wished to obtain after allocating the funds, and asked how DC could play its role of ensuring the proper use of public funds. Mr KAM went on to point out that other Members had stated how improper the way the service contractor had cleaned the streets and its lack of professionalism, leading to the many complaints lodged to DC Members from residents, yet the department still did not send staff members to monitor the work. He said the 15 Members of DC could monitor the work every day but the department refused the requests while asking Members to continue to allocate funds and endorse the DAS. Mr KAM suggested that if C&WDO was unable to provide before the next FC meeting the street washing schedules in advance or after performing the works, requests should be sent to the Ombudsman and the Audit Department in writing to investigate the C&WDO as it had concealed the information. He hoped the issue would be put on record as a matter arising from the current meeting for discussion at the next one.

266. DO(C&W) clarified that the DAS was not funded by DC and expressed gratitude to Members for the comments and views on the street washing service, including the issues on the performance of the contractor and whether blocking panels were used during street washing. He indicated that the department would reinforce its monitoring as well as discuss with the contractor ways to enhance its service quality.

267. Mr KAM Nai-wai indicated that although street washing service was not funded by DC, the fact was that the department hoped that Members could hold discussion based on the Paper. He said regardless of whether the Scheme was funded by DC, given that the department hoped Members could hold a discussion on it, it implied that they hoped Members would agree with the Scheme and express their views. Mr KAM considered that the DAS required the consent of DC, and he enquired what happened if Members disagreed with the Scheme. He asked the department what should be done when it hoped Members would agree with the Scheme but refused to provide information when Members had issues in relation to the Scheme. Mr KAM hoped to put it on record and indicated that “time should not be wasted on talking trash with such people”, and hoped the Secretary would put that sentence on record.

Item 9: Date of Next Meeting

(7:06 pm to 7:07 pm)

268. The Chairlady announced that the ninth meeting of FC would be held on 17 June and the deadline for funding application would be 26 May.

269. The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 pm.

The minutes were confirmed on 17 June 2021

Chairlady: Ms WONG Kin-ching, Cherry

Secretary: Mr LEE Tin-chi, Cario

Central and Western District Council Secretariat

June 2021