

**Minutes of the Second Meeting of the
Community Involvement, Culture and Recreation Committee (2024-2025) of
the Seventh Term of Central and Western District Council**

Date : 11 April 2024 (Thursday)
Time : 10:00 am
Venue : Conference Room
14/F, Harbour Building
38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong

Present:

Chairman

Mr LAW Kam-fai

Vice Chairman

Mr LEE Chi-hang, Sidney, MH

Members

Dr WONG Sin-man, Mandy
Mr NG Yin
Mr LUI Hung-pan
Mr QIU Song-qing, MH
Ms JIN Ling, MH
Mr SHIH Jan Noel
Mr WU Man-hin
Ms CHEUNG Ka-yan
Dr CHAN Kin-Keung, Eugene, SBS, BBS, JP
Dr FUNG Kar-leung
Mr YEUNG Hoi-wing
Mr YEUNG Hok-ming, MH
Mr YIP Wing-shing, SBS, BBS, MH, JP
Mr IP Yik-nam, JP
Ms CHIU Wah-kuen, MH
Mr LAU Tin-ching

Guests:

Item 3

Ms LO Man-nin, Patty	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	District Leisure Manager (Central and Western)
Ms BOW Lok-sin, Rosaline	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Central & Western

Item 4

Ms CHAN Suk-ha	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Senior Librarian (Central and Western)
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Item 5

Ms LO Man-nin, Patty	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	District Leisure Manager (Central and Western)
Ms BOW Lok-sin, Rosaline	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Central & Western
Mr CHENG Pak- chung, Johnny	Education Bureau	Senior School Development Officer(CWS)2

Item 6

Ms CHEUNG Kwok-ying, Sherry	Central and Western District Office	Senior Executive Officer (District Council)
Miss CHOW Tsz- ching, Cherry	Central and Western District Office	Executive Officer (District Council)1
Ms LO Man-nin, Patty	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	District Leisure Manager (Central and Western)
Ms BOW Lok-sin, Rosaline	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Central & Western

In Attendance:

Ms CHEUNG Kwok-ying, Sherry	Central and Western District Office	Senior Executive Officer (District Council)
Ms NG Yin-bing, Tracy	Central and Western District Office	Acting Senior Liaison Officer (Building Management)3

Secretary:

Mr YEUNG Lok- san, Rio	Central and Western District Office	Executive Officer (District Council)5
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Opening Remarks

1. The Chairman welcomed the attendees to the second meeting of the Community Involvement, Culture and Recreation Committee (CICRC) (2024-2025) of the Central and Western District Council (C&WDC). In order to differentiate the identity of attendees, staff of the Secretariat would inspect the staff card of the persons entering the conference room and request for their name cards, and members of the press who wished to conduct interviews there and the assistants of Members were also required to register their real name and mobile number for record purposes. He proposed that for better efficiency of discussion, each item should be discussed in a “4-minute-question-and-answer” format. He also asked the representatives to make their speech and reply as concise as possible. Besides, it was necessary for Members to note that they had to declare their interests as appropriate.

Item 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 1st Meeting of CICRC (2024-2025)

(10:01 am)

2. The Chairman said that as Members did not raise any comments, he announced that the minutes of the meeting were confirmed.

Item 2: Chairman’s Report

(10:01 am - 10:02 am)

3. The Chairman said that there were no items to report.

Item 3: Concern over insufficient lifeguards at public swimming pools in the Central and Western District

(C&W CICRC Paper No. 3/2024)

(10:02 am - 10:37 am)

4. The Chairman welcomed guests to the meeting and invited Members for discussion.

5. A Member shared his own experience, stating that the housing estate in which he lived invited quotations from companies providing lifeguard service through tendering exercise instead of conducting separate recruitment of lifeguards one by one, and had successfully solved the problem of insufficient manpower of lifeguards at the swimming pool of the estate in the end. The Member suggested that the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) should consider adopting the above practice as a solution.

6. A Member enquired about the effectiveness of a series of measures introduced by the LCSD for attracting eligible persons to become lifeguards and for retaining serving lifeguards, such as changes in the number of staff. As she suggested, the LCSD should have collaboration with local tertiary institutions to attract young people being good at sports or even swimming to enrol on certificates courses on life saving through provision of subsidies from the LCSD, thereby encouraging more young people to choose lifeguard as their profession. Apart from this, he suggested that the post of volunteer should be created alongside that of lifeguard. By doing so, some volunteers in the district could assist the lifeguards beside them in performing duties. This could not only enhance the protection of swimmers but also alleviate the workload of lifeguards at the same time, thereby enhancing the attractiveness of the post.

7. A Member expressed concern over the effectiveness of and specific data on the series of measures introduced by the LCSD to attract or retain manpower, such as the number of lifeguards meeting the scheduled deployment and the number of scheduled opening hours of swimming pools. Besides, he enquired whether the LCSD had studied the remuneration package of lifeguards offered by the local private sector, worrying that increase in remuneration merely due to shortage of manpower might have overlooked the fundamental problem of the overall shortage of lifeguards in Hong Kong. He suggested that the LCSD should consider recruiting lifeguards from the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, thereby resulting in lower cost without language barrier. He also said that the continued closure of swimming pools in the district due to insufficient manpower of lifeguards would disappoint the public and reduce their sense of well-being.

8. A Member added that the discussion was focused on public swimming pools rather than private swimming pools. The latter would have greater flexibility in making salary adjustment for lifeguards and might increase the remuneration in response to manpower shortage, while the former would be less flexible for this. He enquired about the wage level of lifeguards of the LCSD and the competitiveness of such level when compared with that of the private market, as well as whether the LCSD would make adjustment to the remuneration of or provide allowance to lifeguards having regard to the location of performing duties. From the perspective of lifeguards, salary and travelling expenses were the most important factors affecting the attractiveness of a job when jobs of the same nature were available.

9. A Member appreciated that the demand for manpower of lifeguards would vary due to change in seasons, having a relatively smaller demand in winter and a surge in demand in summer leading to insufficient manpower of lifeguards. However, he enquired whether the LCSD would have corresponding measures to flexibly cope with changes in demand, such as recruitment of non-civil service or part-time lifeguards. As regards employing imported labour as a solution,

he opined that the Government should give priority to hire local people because of the poor economic conditions at present.

10. Having considered that there were indoor sections in all swimming pool complexes in the district, which were open for use all year round, a Member suggested that LCSD, being in a good position, should offer its lifeguards a contract for a period of two to three years. This might prevent such lifeguards from only working at public swimming pools during off-peak seasons and changing to work at private swimming pools with higher pay during peak seasons. As for outdoor swimming pools, he expected that the LCSD would at least arrange for opening one swimming pool (such as the secondary pool) for public use even if there was a shortage of manpower. As regards the recruitment of lifeguards, he said that since firemen had to act according to the contract terms and were not permitted to have outside work, even if qualified, as part-time lifeguards after work. He therefore suggested that the LCSD should discuss with the Civil Service Bureau (CSB) on the possibility of allowing firemen to work as part-time government lifeguards for mitigating the shortage of lifeguards.

11. The Chairman recommended collaboration between the LCSD and The Hong Kong Life Saving Society by conducting on-site recruitment of lifeguards immediately after the trainees had completed the courses on life saving, believing that it might attract more people to apply for the job. As he also expected, the LCSD would be able to ensure the opening of swimming pool complexes during holidays for meeting the public demand for swimming on these days. If insufficient manpower was anticipated on holidays, deployment of manpower on weekdays should be made to cope with the situation in advance.

12. A Member indicated that he had come into contact with quite many lifeguards due to work. They were older on average and considered that the difference in salary was great between the lifeguards and officers of the disciplined forces. The Member therefore recommended enhancement of the remuneration for lifeguards and, where appropriate, extension of the retirement age of lifeguards.

13. In response to the proposal of outsourcing the lifeguard service, the representatives of the LCSD replied that the LCSD had already launched a pilot scheme at six swimming pool complexes and would consider extending the scheme to other swimming pool complexes depending on the effectiveness. As explained, the difference between the two existing schemes was that the “Combined Seasonal Lifeguard Training Scheme (the Training Scheme)” offered training of lifeguards in a “hire and train” mode under which trainees, upon training and subject to examinations specified by the LCSD, would directly be hired as full-time seasonal lifeguards, and that the “Integrated Certificates Course on Life Saving” ” was a fee-charging course for nurturing lifesavers and trainees might choose not to become employees of the LCSD after completing the course. The former scheme had also achieved the objectives to a certain extent.

As for recruitment at secondary schools and tertiary institutions, the LCSD would attract young people to apply for seasonal or part-time lifeguards through issuing letters and distributing recruitment posters to these institutions. As for recruitment of volunteers, the venue-based lifeguard club of some swimming pool complexes had all along been providing volunteer service at the facilities, but the service delivery might not be stable due to the nature of voluntary service. In addition, the LCSD had started to recruit seasonal and contract lifeguards since December 2023 and the recruitment was still in progress. This year, it aimed to hire 20 non-civil service contract lifeguards in the Central and Western District (C&W District), believing that there would be a more stable supply of lifeguards at the public swimming pools in C&W District. Regarding the figures about closure of swimming pool complexes, the number of days of partial closure of the Kennedy Town Swimming Pool was 76 days in 2023 and 65 days in 2022. In such case, the LCSD would immediately display notices at the exits/entrances of the swimming pool concerned and announce the closure arrangement on the LCSD's website. Regarding the working arrangements for lifeguards, the LCSD would endeavour to allocate sufficient lifeguards for performing duty at and maintaining the operation of swimming pools. However, in the case of unforeseen circumstances, such as lifeguards calling in sick, the LCSD might need to make arrangement for partial closure of swimming pool facilities having regard to the availability of manpower that day. The LCSD would reflect to the Administration the proposal of permitting firemen to take up part-time jobs. The department would consider the proposed extension of the service contract of retired lifeguards in a timely manner. Regarding the supply of lifeguards, the LCSD started to offer a two-year contract to lifeguards for delivering service at swimming pools for a continuous period of two years since last year, thereby enhancing the stability of manpower supply. Depending on the qualifications of lifesaving possessed by individual lifeguards, the current monthly salary cum gratuity of a seasonal lifeguard could be as high as \$24,500 to \$26,000 a month, which was considered by the LCSD to be competitive as compared with the remuneration of lifeguards in the private market. The LCSD would also provide a subsidy of \$2,000 to a lifeguard who had obtained or resumed one's Pool Lifeguard Award during service. On employment of imported labour, the LCSD would continue to explore, together with the CSB, Labour Department and relevant organisations, the feasibility of importing qualified lifeguards from the Mainland and overseas.

14. A Member was concerned about whether the LCSD would deploy staff to other districts when there was adequate manpower and enquired of the LCSD whether the data on wastage of lifeguards recruited under the Training Scheme was available.

15. The Vice Chairman understood that the Government had made many attempts to address the lifeguard shortage, but the public was still disappointed at the temporary closure of swimming pools. He recommended formulation of KPIs (key performance indicators) by the LCSD to ensure that the opening hours of swimming pools would be maintained at a level of at least 70 to 80 percent of the scheduled period during swimming seasons. Besides, he hoped that the LCSD

could improve the staffing arrangement for maintaining a certain degree of flexibility to cope with unforeseen circumstances such as lifeguards calling in sick.

16. The representatives of the LCSD replied that the specific data on the wastage rate of lifeguards was not available for the time being. Moreover, the LCSD would not second lifeguards from one district to another one under normal circumstances. Furthermore, regarding the formulation of KPIs, she said that it was one of the LCSD's objectives to maintain a certain number of opening hours of swimming pools, but this would depend on the result of the recruitment exercises. If sufficient lifeguards could be recruited within this year, normal opening of the public swimming pools could be maintained.

(Post-meeting note: As shown in the records, all contract lifeguards in C&W District had completed their service during the contract period in 2023-2024.)

17. The Chairman ended the discussion on the item and thanked the guests for attending the meeting.

Item 4: Request for expediting the conversion of the Technical Processing Unit of Hong Kong Public Libraries on the 9th Floor of Sheung Wan Civic Centre into Sheung Wan Public Library

(C&W CICRC Paper No. 4/2024)

(10:37 am - 11:00 am)

18. The Chairman welcomed guests to the meeting and invited Members for discussion.

19. A Member said that he had been working in the local communities in C&W District for many years and striving for the provision of a library on the 9th floor of Sheung Wan Civic Centre (SWCC) for residents in Sheung Wan and the Mid-levels. Nevertheless, only the service of a mobile library van was provided on a bi-weekly basis in the end, which could not meet the needs of the residents. He proposed to provide a small library cum reading room in the joint-user complex at Chung Kong Road (the joint-user complex) to meet the resident demand for space for reading.

20. A Member criticised the LCSD for frequently using the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines (HKPSG) as an excuse to evade Members' requests. He pointed out that it was necessary to provide a library at a fixed location in Sheung Wan area to meet the resident needs. However, residents at present could only rely on the service provided by mobile library vans. Although a territory-wide major library was provided in C&W District, it was actually providing service for all people in Hong Kong and was not convenient enough for residents in Sheung Wan. He called for the development of a small library somewhere in the area and hoped that the opening

hours of such library could be longer, thereby facilitating the use of the facility by residents even after work and during public holiday. He was disappointed at the response from the LCSD because it did not seem to have taken the actual needs of the residents into account and could only use the HKPSG as an excuse for explanation.

21. A Member was concerned about the current situation of and demand for library service in C&W District. She enquired of the LCSD about the relevant data, such as the demand for library service by some 230 000 residents in C&W District and the ratio of C&W District residents using online library services. She mentioned that libraries were places for borrowing books and reading traditionally. However, in view of the trends of information technology and digitisation in the modern society, adjustment to the functions and roles of libraries might be needed. She suggested that consideration should be given to integrating libraries with other cultural facilities (such as exhibition, community project and meeting rooms) to meet the diversified needs of the community in a more comprehensive manner and, at the same time, smoothening the implementation of library projects.

22. A Member expressed the public need and expectation of a new library in the district. Although it had been a long time since the proposal was put forward, it was still yet to be achieved. She mentioned that even though there were already a few libraries provided in C&W District, it was still inconvenient for residents in Sheung Wan to visit these libraries (such as City Hall Public Library). They preferred visiting libraries that were situated at locations geographically closer such as Sai Wan. She stressed that there was a substantial demand for libraries from residents in Sheung Wan, including many elderly and students, and called on the Government to actively respond to the resident demand. In addition, she enquired about the usage of the mobile library van parked at Sheung Wan Cultural Square.

23. A Member pointed out that the existing libraries in C&W District were inconvenient for access to residents in Sheung Wan and Sai Ying Pun. As stressed, it was difficult for the online library services to replace the services of physical libraries, indicating that there was an imminent need for providing a new library in Sheung Wan area. Regarding the time of relocating the Technical Processing Unit of Hong Kong Public Libraries from the current location, he hoped that the Government would provide a definite timetable lest the residents should be disappointed. As he also thought, some figures given in the written reply from the LCSD, which stated that only 39 requests for an additional library had been proposed in the past nine years, were an underestimation of the resident demand for a library, believing that the actual demand far exceeded the above number.

24. A Member believed that the crux of the problem lay in the existing policy because the number of libraries in C&W District had met the policy requirement and was theoretically sufficient to meet the needs of 230 000 residents in the district. As such, priorities had all been

accorded to the more pressing need of developing sports centres in the available venues. He suggested that the responsibility of managing libraries should be handed over to another bureau. For example, the management might be incorporated under the purview of the Education Bureau (EDB) which would then be able to consider converting some schools no longer in use into libraries.

25. The representative of the LCSD responded that it was necessary to have careful consideration regarding resource allocation because the provision of a new library would involve substantial resources. At present, it was anticipated that the application of funding for the capital works project “Amenity Complex in Area 103, Ma On Shan” would be submitted to the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council (LegCo) in mid-2024. If the funding application was successful, the project would be completed in four and a half years. For this reason, the earliest possible time for implementing the relocation of the Technical Processing Unit of Hong Kong Public Libraries from Sheung Wan Cultural Square would be early 2029, and the vacated space could be used for other purposes. To determine the use of the vacated space in future, the LCSD would keep under review the demand for cultural facilities in the community and would take into consideration various factors, including changes in existing policies and facilities. As she indicated, Members and the public would be consulted once concrete proposals were available. Moreover, regarding the opening hours of the Smithfield Public Library, a trial run of extending the opening hours of the library had been conducted for three months in 2018. However, the data revealed that there were not many users during the extended period and the original opening hours remained unchanged at last due to resource constraint. Regarding the usage of online library services, she replied that although the LCSD had collected the data on usage of service at a territory-wide level, a specific analysis of the usage in C&W District could not be made because the registered readers came from various districts. Nevertheless, the LCSD would conduct questionnaire surveys for collecting readers’ opinions on a regular basis. Regarding the situation of the mobile library, she said that the mobile library would visit once every two weeks, and an average of 166 items of books would be lent and 98 would pay a visit during each day of service, indicating that the service could meet the public demand for borrowing books. Regarding the number of complaints, she said that most of the complaints lodged from the DC, to which the LCSD attached great importance since the DC Members had exactly reflected the public views. Regarding the proposal of handing over the responsibility of managing libraries to another bureau, she said that Members’ views would be reported to the higher authorities since they involved in policy areas.

26. In response to the proposal of providing a small library cum reading room at the joint-user complex, the representative of the LCSD responded that, as stated in the previous written reply, the LCSD did not plan to provide a library in the joint-user complex at this stage.

27. The Chairman ended the discussion on the item and thanked the guests for attending the meeting.

Item 5: Request for a briefing on the specific implementation plan and objectives of “Promoting Sports in the Community” in the Central and Western District under the sports development policy (C&W CICRC Paper No. 5/2024)

(11:00 am - 11:18 am)

28. The Chairman welcomed guests to the meeting and invited Members for discussion.

29. The Vice Chairman opined that there was little substantive progress for “Promoting Sports in the Community” under the sports development policy, and that it was in lack of some territory-wide sports competitions that would attract the participation of people from different age groups and of various background. He proposed to take advantage of the wave of sports fervour aroused by Olympic Games (OG) this year and organise a large-scale sports competition with territory-wide participation, such as marathon or mega Tai Chi show, with a view to achieving the goal of sports for all.

30. A Member was concerned about the problem of obesity among school children, suggesting that, in addition to organising large-scale sports activities, the operation of The Hong Kong Award for Young People should be taken as a reference by giving awards or milestones of adventurous journey to school children who had achieved their exercise targets, so as to achieve the objective of sports for all. She suggested that adults should be encouraged to do more exercise by a system of accumulated points which might be given to them during exercise and used them in some ways such as priority accorded for booking of sports venues. She also suggested that such efforts should start with district health centres, which might provide sports promotion activities targeting against diseases that could be caused by inadequate physical activity. Regarding emerging sports, as they were becoming popular and attractive to young people, she recommended further promotion of wider publicity for these sports. Lastly, some people reflected that they had encountered difficulties in booking government sports venues. As also shown in the records of the LegCo in 2019, the success rate of applying for sports venues in C&W District was low. She enquired whether the latest data on the usage rates could be provided and proposed to make improvements to the venues and the related ancillary facilities.

31. A Member shared his experience of being a member of the Community Sports Committee. He said that the Government had all along been making every effort of Promoting Sports in the Community. However, the progress of such efforts had adversely been affected by social incidents and the COVID-19 pandemic in the past few years. In the past, the Hong Kong Games (HKG) did not only include traditional sports such as swimming and tennis but

also some emerging sports. As he thought, the HKG could enhance community cohesion apart from Promoting Sports in the Community. He proposed that the LCSD should have strengthened cooperation with The Central and Western District Recreation and Sports Association in jointly promoting sports activities. He also proposed that the LCSD should take advantage of the forthcoming Central and Western District Festival and the HKG as well as make use of the C&W District's characteristics to organise sports activities, such as holding a marathon at the waterfront in C&W District, thus achieving the objective of Promoting Sports in the Community.

32. A Member enquired whether the Government would incorporate innovative technologies, such as virtual reality, in sports programmes to attract the participation of young people and address the problem of space constraint in Hong Kong being scarce in land but having a large population. Besides, she enquired about the feasibility of using portable equipment to facilitate people to carry out sports activities even at public place like shopping malls. She also enquired about the effectiveness of the "Opening up School Facilities for Promotion of Sports Development Scheme" and how many schools and students had benefited from the scheme. She also requested the Government to explore the feasibility of installing community health facilities, such as health monitoring equipment, at specific locations so that people might check their health conditions at any time.

33. The representatives of the LCSD responded that the LCSD would organise a wide range of sports activities in the community every year. They included major sports events and activities suitable for people of different ages, abilities and interests. The main objective of these activities was to encourage the public to integrate sports into their daily life for health promotion. The LCSD had planned to organise 1 530 recreation and sports activities under its annual plan of 2024-25 and anticipated that about 84 800 people would participate in these activities. The LCSD had taken note of Members' proposed introduction of virtual sports as reference in future. After the LCSD had conducted the "Territory-wide Physical Fitness Survey for the Community" (the Survey), one of the following initiatives was the installation of a bioelectrical impedance analyser at the Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park Sports Centre to enable the public to check the status of their physical fitness for health management. To promote the participation of young people in recreation and sports activities, the LCSD had set up in its official website a dedicated theme page on youth for uploading information on various kinds of recreation and sports activities. In this way, young people could access to and participate in various activities suitable for them in a one-stop manner. In addition, the LCSD had introduced two age groups (15 or below and 16 to 17) for young people in the individual sports events of the 9th HKG, aiming to encourage more young people to participate in sports activities. Moreover, the LCSD would hold the "Sport For All Day" in all 18 districts every year to promote sports for all and all DC Members would be invited for participation. On the encouragement to children for participating in recreational and sports activities, the LCSD's

School Sports Programme Unit was dedicated to implement school sports programmes through collaboration with various sports associations, striving to promote sports programmes to primary, secondary and special schools in the territory. Furthermore, as the Survey had shown that parental participation was an important factor in children’s participation in physical activities, the LCSD had specifically increased the number of parent-child activities in its programmes for 2024-25, aiming to enhance the interest and participation of children in sports activities. Regarding emerging sports, to actively tie in with the upcoming 2024 Paris OG and 2026 Summer Youth OG, the LCSD had provided additional programmes for new emerging sports, such as breaking and 3-on-3 basketball competitions, to attract the participation and enhance the interest in sports activities by young people.

34. The representative of the EDB replied that the EDB was committed to promoting life-wide learning with special emphasis on sports development in schools and sports activities outside the classroom, including continuous updating of guidelines on physical education, development of specific resources targeting at teaching of physical education, provision of professional training to teachers of physical education, organisation of professional networks for teachers and launching of the “Active Students, Active People” Campaign.

35. The Chairman ended the discussion on the item. He announced that discussion on Item nos. 6 to 13 would be chaired by the Vice Chairman and thanked the guests for attending the meeting.

Item 6: Request for a briefing on the specific implementation and objectives of the Community Involvement Programme in the Central and Western District (C&W CICRC Paper No. 6/2024) and annual plan for projects under the 2024-25 Central and Western District Office Community Involvement Programme (From April 2024 to March 2025)

(C&W CICRC Paper Nos. 6/2024 and 13/2024)

(11:18 am - 11:27 am)

36. The Vice Chairman welcomed guests to the meeting and invited Members for discussion.

37. The Vice Chairman was concerned about the original intent of the Community Involvement Programme (CIP), which was introduced to promote community building, environmental improvement and community facilities. However, since only activities for celebrating major events were outlined in the annual plan for projects under the 2024-25 Central and Western District Office (C&WDO) CIP (the annual plan), he enquired whether there were any specific plans targeting at improving community facilities. He suggested that application

for funding to organise such activities should be submitted by the C&WDC or its committees and working groups, aiming for provision of better community facilities to C&W District residents.

38. A representative of the C&WDO replied that the paper only mentioned activities that had already been planned for implementation, and that the CIP would also include activities for improving community facilities and Members might check the similar activities that had been held in the past, such as the project of renovating the Central Green Trail for improvement to facilities in the district, visits to the elderly for promotion of community harmony and so on. She said that applications submitted from organisations or charitable organisations in the district, and the C&WDC or its committees and working groups were also welcome.

39. A Member raised her own observations on festive activities, pointing out that, irrespective of districts, these activities appeared to be virtually the same with only a few differences in decorations. She suggested that incorporation of the characteristic of the C&W District, that is, the Chinese-Western fusion, should be considered when organising major festive events. This would include elements of popular culture in the activities and could attract enhanced participation by young people. She cited an activity organised by her organisation as an example for illustration, which had attracted the participation of young people through the incorporation of the special feature of C&W District as well as popular culture. She enquired whether this kind of elements could be added to the activities in the C&WDO annual plan.

40. A representative of the C&WDO replied that the C&WDO was in discussion on incorporating elements characterising the district into festive activities and thanked Members for their views.

41. The Vice Chairman ended the discussion on the item and thanked the guests for attending the meeting.

Item 7: Request for a briefing on the promotion of civic education outside schools in the Central and Western District
(C&W CICRC Paper No. 7/2024)

(11:27 am -11:30 am)

42. The Vice Chairman said that the Secretariat had invited the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau and the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education before the meeting. However, these departments replied that they were unable to attend the meeting due to other commitments. He enquired whether any Members would make declaration of interest.

43. Three Members declared that they were members of the Central and Western District Youth Development and Civic Education Committee.

44. A Member stressed the importance of civic education, national education and patriotic education. With the promulgation of the Patriotic Education Law of the People's Republic of China, the Government was responsible for promoting patriotic education and formulating the comprehensive planning and strategies to dovetail with the law. He said that the Government had already established a Working Group on Patriotic Education but emphasised the need to promote patriotic education in a long-term and in-depth manner to ensure that it would become a deep-rooted awareness of the public. He recommended to expand the scope of civic education to other occasions outside schools and proposed some specific measures which included strengthening education for families and parents, enhancing the cooperation with clansmen associations in promotional activities, improving the extension and follow-up action of exchange programmes held by organisations, and strengthening the partnership with local youth organisations. As he stressed, all these efforts were complicated but necessary, simultaneously hoping that a new platform could be established to deepen the discussion on and expedite the implementation of these issues.

45. The Chairman ended the discussion on the item.

Item 8: Arts and Cultural Activities in 2023-24 and 2024-25 in the Central and Western District organised by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department
(C&W CICRC Paper No. 8/2024)

(11:30 am)

46. The Vice Chairman asked Members to note the paper.

Item 9: Leisure and Cultural Services Department Report on the Extension Activities of the Public Libraries in the Central and Western District
(C&W CICRC Paper No. 9/2024)

(11:31 am)

47. The Vice Chairman asked Members to note the paper.

Item 10: Leisure and Cultural Services Department Programme Plan of Extension Activities of Public Libraries in the Central and Western District from April 2024 to March 2025

(C&W CICRC Paper No. 10/2024)

(11:31 am)

48. The Vice Chairman asked Members to note the paper.

Item 11: Report on the Organisation of Recreation and Sports Programmes in the Central and Western District by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department

(C&W CICRC Paper No. 11/2024)

(11:31 am)

49. The Vice Chairman asked Members to note the paper.

Item 12: Report on the Leisure and Cultural Services Department's Recreation and Sports Programmes for 2024-25 in Central and Western District

(C&W CICRC Paper No. 12/2024)

(11:31 am)

50. The Vice Chairman asked Members to note the paper.

Item 13: Any Other Business

(11:31 am)

51. The Vice Chairman said that no other business was raised.

Item 14: Date of the next meeting

(11:32 am)

52. The Vice Chairman said that the next meeting would be held on 6 June 2024. The paper submission deadline would be 22 May 2024.

53. The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 am.

The minutes were confirmed on 6 June 2024

Chairman: Mr LAW Kam-fai

Secretary: Mr YEUNG Lok-san, Rio

Central and Western District Council Secretariat
June 2024