

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

Date : 6 June 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

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 HUANG Hsiao Hsin, Karen	Independent Commission Against Corruption	Regional Officer/Hong Kong Island
Mr Jerome FAN	Independent Commission Against Corruption	Senior Community Relations Officer (Hong Kong West/Islands)

Item 4

Ms HUI Man-wai	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	Chief Health Inspector (Central/Western) 3
Ms LAM Bun-ngee	Social Welfare Department	District Social Welfare Officer (Central Western, Southern & Islands)
Mr WONG Ka-hei, Daniel	Central & Western District Office	Senior Executive Officer (District Management)
Miss SIU Hei-wai, Annie	Central & Western District Office	Executive Officer (District Council) 3, Central & Western District Office

Item 5

Ms LO Man-nin, Patty	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	District Leisure Manager (Central and Western)
Mr MA Wai-chung	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Acting 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)
Miss YU Mei-yu, Melinder	Central and Western District Office	Senior Liaison Officer (Building Management)3
Ms SAM Fung-mei, Esther	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Senior Manager (Hong Kong West)
Ms CHAU Kwan-wai, Yvonne	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Manager (Hong Kong West) Marketing, Programme and District Activities
Ms CHAN Suk-ha	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Senior Librarian (Central and Western)
Mr LI Yiu-kwan	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Librarian (City Hall Public Library) Lending
Mr CHENG Pak Chung, Johnny	Education Bureau	Senior School Development Officer (CWS)2

Secretary:

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

Absent:

Dr WONG Sin-man, Mandy

Opening Remarks

1. The Chairman welcomed all to the third meeting of the Community Involvement, Culture and Recreation Committee (CICRC) (2024-2025) under the Central and Western District Council (C&WDC). To identify the attendees of the meeting, staff from the Secretariat would inspect the staff cards of all persons entering the Conference Room and obtain their business cards. Media workers and assistants to DC Members entering the Conference Room would also be required to register their real names and phone numbers for record purpose. To facilitate more effective discussions, the Chairman suggested that each agenda item should be discussed in a “4-minute-question-and-answer” format and the representatives should also make their speech and reply as concise as possible. Besides, Members were reminded to make appropriate declarations of interest where necessary.

Item 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of CICRC (2024-2025)

(10:03 am)

2. As Members did not have any comments on the minutes, the Chairman announced that the minutes were adopted.

Item 2: Chairman’s Report

(10:03 am – 10:04 am)

3. The Chairman said that the Secretariat had received a notification of sick leave from Dr Mandy WONG before the meeting and she was unable to attend the meeting due to indisposition. With the consent of all Members, the Chairman announced that the CICRC agreed to accept the absence of Dr Mandy WONG from the meeting.

Item 3: Independent Commission Against Corruption Regional Office (Hong Kong West/Islands) – Anti-corruption strategies 2024/25 and the proposal for the “Fighting Corruption: The Mission Continues” Integrity Project for the Central and Western District 2024/25

(C&W CICRC Paper No. 14/2024)

(10:04 am – 10:41 am)

4. The Chairman welcomed the guests to the meeting and invited the representatives of the department to present the paper.

5. The representative of the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) presented the paper with the aid of PowerPoint slides (refer to Annex I).

6. A Member expressed his concern about the issues with building maintenance, citing the escalating and even sky-high maintenance costs which had led to heated debates among residents. He agreed that there was a need for the ICAC to carry out publicity and education to enable residents to identify whether corruption was involved during the maintenance process. He pointed out that many residents were elderly and might not fully understand what constituted corrupt practices. Furthermore, it was difficult to report suspicious cases to the relevant departments without solid evidence. Due to the lack of evidence, many cases had gone unresolved or the offenders had not been brought to justice. He therefore suggested that education on how to combat corruption should be stepped up during the contact with property owners, so that when members of the public detected suspicious activities in the course of building maintenance, they would know how to report them to the relevant departments, and this would act as a deterrent to the offenders.

7. A Member expressed her concern about the reporting mechanism at community level and enquired about the possibility of establishing a long-term community complaint and reporting centre. She suggested that the ICAC should collaborate with various community organisations to establish a convenient channel for reporting, while ensuring that the privacy and safety of the public would be properly protected when they made a report. She further proposed the idea of setting up a monitoring body in the community, comprising local residents, Care Teams, District Council (DC) members and the media, to ensure that public complaints and concerns would be effectively followed up and dealt with. Lastly, she pointed out that many quality migrants from the Mainland might not have a very good understanding of Hong Kong's policies or information and might be easily misled. To address the issue, she suggested that targeted activities should be organised. For instance, ICAC ambassadors could be invited to deliver related educational talks at seminars on further studies. Moreover, the ICAC could collaborate with platforms such as the REDnote (“Xiaohongshu”) and local organisations to more effectively disseminate anti-corruption messages.

8. A Member hoped that the ICAC would expand the scope of its publicity and education efforts, particularly in promoting anti-corruption messages among the business sector, as many people working in the sector were unaware of the corruption traps. He suggested that the ICAC should collaborate with the business sector in organising activities that raise awareness and vigilance against corruption. As regards the issue with building maintenance, the Member

pointed out that some individuals might use anonymous reporting as a means to attack other people. This tactic could deter people from serving as members or chairpersons of building management committees, ultimately affecting the proper maintenance and management of buildings. He, therefore, requested the ICAC to provide more information on how it would handle anonymous reports and whether all reported cases required solid evidence before investigation would be initiated. The concern was that resources might be wasted on malicious reports aimed solely at attacking other people.

9. A Member expressed his support for the work of ICAC's Regional Office (Hong Kong West/Islands) and the "Fight Corruption: The Mission Continues" Integrity Project for the Central and Western District (C&W District). He further mentioned that the C&W District Care Teams had been in operation for some time and he hoped there would be collaboration between the Care Teams and the ICAC in the future, so that volunteers of the Care Teams could have a better understanding of the possible corrupt practices they might come into contact with in their work and share their anti-corruption experiences together.

10. The Chairman suggested that the ICAC should produce some short plays to promote the message of corruption prevention. He pointed out that local groups often organised different types of carnivals and performances. If the ICAC could participate in such activities and convey the message of anti-corruption through some short plays, it would be able to reach out to different walks of life in the district more effectively.

11. The representative of the ICAC provided a consolidated reply as follows:

- (i) Regarding the issue with building management, she said that the whistle-blower only needed to have reasonable suspicion and did not need to provide substantive evidence. If a reported case fell within ICAC's purview, the ICAC would definitely follow up in accordance with the law. Furthermore, the ICAC had been proactively reaching out to different building management organisations to provide comprehensive corruption preventive services. For instance, talks and seminars on clean building maintenance were organised, focusing on explaining the elements that constituted corruption crimes and corrupt practices related to building maintenance, so that participants could have a better understanding of the salient points of anti-corruption legislation, enabling the whistle-blowers to report the cases more clearly and in detail.
- (ii) As regards the reporting mechanism and false complaints with malicious intent, she said that aside from the reporting channels mentioned just then, the ICAC had also set up seven regional offices across the territory to engage with the local communities. These offices would launch publicity and educational activities to

promote the goal of stamping out corruption and building up a clean society, and receive reports from members of the public. Taking the C&W District as an example, the Regional Office (Hong Kong West/Islands) accepted reports and enquiries from members of the public through the hotline 2543 0000. As corruption and bribery were crimes concealed by all parties involved and hence very difficult to detect, the ICAC had all along been actively encouraging members of the public to report corruption. However, if a person made a false allegation or statement to the ICAC knowing that the accusation was false, i.e. making false accusation maliciously, he/she might have committed an offence under Section 13B of the ICAC Ordinance. In the past, there had been quite a number of successful prosecutions against false complaints made maliciously. She emphasised that all reported cases would be processed and investigations conducted in strict confidence. Any person who disclosed the identity of a person under investigation committed an offence, and there had been convictions for such cases in the past.

- (iii) Regarding the collaboration with organisations in the community and the business sector, she said that the ICAC had been building up partnership with various business organisations and trade associations and promoting anti-corruption messages among the business sector through various forms of activities, such as the organisation of seminars and publication of feature articles. For instance, the Regional Office had collaborated with the district liaison group for the C&W District under a major chamber of commerce in Hong Kong and jointly organised a seminar to explain the anti-corruption ordinances and related knowledge to the business community in the C&W District. The Regional Office would follow up on Members' suggestions.
- (iv) On corruption prevention education for imported talents, she said that the ICAC had been disseminating corruption prevention messages through various channels, including relevant government departments and the networks of top talent and professional organisations. She thanked Members for their willingness to help disseminate anti-corruption messages. The Regional Office would later forward the anti-corruption messages produced by the ICAC for the imported workers and talents to Members. (Post-meeting note: The related webpage links had been sent to Members after the meeting.) In addition, the ICAC was more than willing to strengthen the co-operation with the Care Teams in providing training on corruption prevention, and the Regional Office would liaise with Members to finalise the related arrangement. Lastly, she thanked the Chairman for the suggestion of using short plays as a means to disseminate corruption

prevention messages in the district. The Regional Office would consider the proposal seriously.

12. Regarding the proposal for the C&W DC to become a supporting organisation of the “Fighting Corruption: The Mission Continues” Integrity Project for the Central and Western District 2024/25, the Chairman suggested that the Secretariat should follow the usual practice and consult all of the 20 DC members by circulation after the meeting. Their views and the voting results would then be forwarded to the ICAC for follow-up. Members indicated that they did not have any further comments.

13. The Chairman declared the discussion closed and thanked the guests for attending the meeting.

Item 4: Request for providing more support to street sleepers in the Central and Western District
(C&W CICRC Paper No. 18/2024)

(10:41 am – 11:15 am)

14. The Chairman welcomed guests to the meeting and announced that the agenda item was open for discussion.

15. A Member pointed out that the issue of street sleepers had been a long-standing problem in the district and the ward offices of DC Members had been receiving related complaints and requests for assistance from members of the public. Despite the situation having been reported to the government departments, it appeared that the problem had not been effectively resolved and the street sleepers remained where they were. Noting that the Social Welfare Department (SWD) had not provided figures on the complaints, the Member asked whether it was due to the fact that the cases had been referred to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) such as the St. James’ Settlement for handling. The Member suggested that the SWD should obtain the complaint figures for the past five years from the relevant organisations to better understand the situation. In addition, the Member pointed out that the SWD would take into consideration the individual preferences of the street sleepers when following up the cases, but many street sleepers in fact preferred to stay on the streets. The Member asked how the SWD would strike a balance between honouring individual preferences and maintaining the community environment. Lastly, the Member expressed concern about the support measures for street sleepers in times of inclement weather, citing the assistance given to street sleepers by

the opening of cold shelters during the cold spell last year, and enquired whether the SWD had any further measures in place to protect the street sleepers under inclement weather conditions.

16. A Member pointed out that the causes of homelessness were complicated. For instance, some people were unable to live in their homes due to excessive hoarding. The Member referred to a case in Sai Wan where an inter-departmental joint operation had been carried out more than a decade ago to help a street sleeper to clear the cluttered home, but the street sleeper was currently facing the same problem again. The Member suggested that another clean-up exercise should be conducted to address the problem. He said that there had been an increase in the number of street sleepers in the C&W District and no substantial improvement could be seen during inspections. Although the situation had been reported to the government departments and the departments had indicated that they had been aware of the issue and dealing with it, the persistent and unresolved issue had made the public wonder why street sleepers could become such a serious problem in a developed city like Hong Kong. The Member acknowledged the challenges faced by government departments in organising inter-departmental joint operations. For instance, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) would only assist in clearing up the clutter in serious cases or upon receipt of referrals, and even requests from DC members might be declined. However, he called on the government departments to be more determined in carrying out joint operations to help street sleepers clear up the clutter in their homes so that they could live at home instead of sleeping on the streets.

17. A Member pointed out that government departments were passive in dealing with the problem of street sleepers, mainly because the existing legislation did not confer sufficient power on the SWD or law enforcement departments to prevent street sleeping. Compared with Singapore, the problem of street sleeping in Hong Kong was more serious. Hong Kong people were very concerned about the problem and lodged complaints about it frequently. The Member believed that the problem did not lie in the willingness of government departments to help, but in the willingness of street sleepers to accept help. He suggested that the Government should grant some power to the departments, by way of legislation or government policies, to address the problem. Even if it was only the power to temporarily house street sleepers in safe and comfortable places until suitable accommodations were found, it still manifested that the Government was taking proactive actions and trying to help. Otherwise, it would be difficult for the public to understand the efforts made by the Government in this regard.

18. A Member recounted that since the first day she had taken office as a DC Member, she had been discussing the problem of street sleepers with the District Social Welfare Officer. She pointed out that there was a street sleeper who had been sleeping on the street outside her office for 18 years. The Member concurred with the views of other Members that the existing mechanism was ineffective in addressing the problem. Although the SWD, DC Members and Care Teams all wanted to help street sleepers, the problem had remained unresolved for a long time, and the public was dissatisfied with it, since street sleepers affected street hygiene and other people. The Member considered that the existing registration system for street sleepers was inadequate, with incomplete data and lack of information sharing among departments, which hampered the effectiveness of the efforts on solving the problem. She suggested that the Central and Western District Office (C&WDO) should take the lead in establishing a comprehensive street sleeper registration system that enabled information sharing across departments to facilitate the collaboration among departments. She emphasised that the situation of each homeless individual was unique and it required case-by-case analysis and cross-departmental cooperation to solve the problem. She also shared the experience of her interactions with the street sleepers, and pointed out that street sleeping could fulfil part of the psychological needs of some street sleepers and that was why they slept on the streets. Before the problem could be properly addressed, she suggested implementing a unified management mechanism to keep the belongings of street sleepers to minimise the resentment of residents. She called on the Government to set up a systematic mechanism to address the problem of street sleepers.

19. A Member shared her experience in working with the C&WDO in dealing with the problem of street sleeping on Aberdeen Street. She thanked the office for organising the joint operation expeditiously, but pointed out that co-ordination with various departments had been very difficult, since the street sleeper on Aberdeen Street was a deaf-mute and co-ordination with various parties had been required to resolve the problem. She suggested that a joint office should be set up to specifically deal with the problem of street sleepers, and pointed out that the FEHD was currently legally constrained and inter-departmental collaboration was required to help the street sleeper on each occasion. She also mentioned that social workers from the SWD had been often seen during the joint operation, but not those from the St. James' Settlement. She asked whether the St. James' Settlement would only follow up on cases referred to them or would actively seek out people in need in the community. Furthermore, she pointed out that the street sleeper on Aberdeen Street had not only affected environmental hygiene, but had also caused obstruction to the traffic, posing a potential traffic safety hazard. She recalled an

incident in which the street sleeper had rolled down the ramp with a cart and sustained injury. Previously, due to the constraints of various departments, it had not been possible to relocate the street sleeper to a safer location. Fortunately, with inter-departmental coordination, the street sleeper had agreed to communicate with the departments. This served to highlight the importance of inter-departmental collaboration. However, the Member also pointed out that the street sleeper was currently trying to avoid the pursuit of the departments by moving from the Aberdeen Street to other places, such as PMQ or Sheung Wan Cultural Square. Therefore, the problem had not been fully resolved. She hoped that the government departments would continue to follow up on the issues.

20. The Chairman reminded Members that they could report individual cases privately to the relevant departments.

21. A Member said that even if the Government really wanted to help the street sleepers, sometimes it was unable to do so. He shared a case on Li Po Lung Path where two elderly men had slept there regularly, causing obstruction to the road users. However, when asked whether they needed financial support, the elderly men had revealed that they had places to stay. They just did not want to stay at home, and they did not need any help from SWD or the Government. The Member stressed that the issue was not that the Government was unwilling to help, but that the street sleepers were reluctant to co-operate and refused to provide their personal particulars, making it difficult for the Government to offer help. He pointed out that government departments such as the SWD and the Police were eager to solve the problem, but it would be difficult for them to proceed with the work if the street sleepers were not co-operative. The Member mentioned that they visited the two elderly men in question frequently and had tried their best to minimise the obstruction they might cause to other road users. They had built up a relationship like friendship with the street sleepers, advising them to reduce their belongings placed on the road and to sit on the side of the stairs as much as possible so as not to cause obstruction to other people.

22. A Member opined that it was very difficult to change a person's mindset. Even if government departments were very co-operative, they were still unable to do anything in some cases. He believed that in extreme weather conditions, the Government must not allow homeless people to stay in dangerous places. This was a basic requirement. Street sleepers were often reluctant to go to the temporary shelters for fear that their cardboards and other belongings would be stolen. Therefore, the Government needed to find a solution to ensure

that street sleepers would not stay in unsafe places in dangerous situations. He stressed that it would be unacceptable to our society if street sleepers were left to sleep on the streets under extreme weather conditions or when cold weather warnings were in force. As Hong Kong was a modern and affluent society, he called on all government departments to work together to find effective ways to protect the safety of street sleepers.

23. A Member enquired whether street sleeping was allowed under the laws of Hong Kong, and whether it was illegal for street sleepers to leave their belongings on the street. He pointed out that Hong Kong was a society governed by the rule of law and problems had to be solved in a legal way. As a social worker, he understood that social workers would handle cases in a “people-oriented” manner. However, from the perspective of social governance, it was necessary to clarify with the Government whether people were allowed to sleep on the streets for an extended period of time. If they were allowed to do so, why bothered to stop them? If they were not allowed to do so, how come there were so many unresolved cases? The Member was of the opinion that the situation showed that there were problems with the existing mechanism, which made it impossible to solve the problem of street sleepers. He further pointed out that even if street sleeping was allowed under the law, a review should be conducted on how to prevent or stop such behaviour. While acknowledging that the problem of street sleeping could not be entirely eradicated, he questioned whether there was an effective mechanism in place to tackle the problem when it occurred. He asked the SWD and fellow DC Members whether there was an effective mechanism to tackle the problem and how the Government could stop street sleepers from sleeping on the streets if such behaviour was not illegal.

24. The representative of the SWD provided a consolidated reply as follows:

- (i) In dealing with the issue of street sleepers, the roles of the SWD and the NGOs were to provide necessary welfare services for the street sleepers so that they no longer needed to sleep on the streets. NGOs were subvented by the SWD to operate Integrated Services Teams for Street Sleepers (the services teams), which proactively reached out to street sleepers through daytime and late-night visits to understand their reasons for street sleeping, and provided them with integrated support services based on their welfare needs and willingness to receive such services. The integrated support services provided would include counselling, service referrals, short-term accommodation, application

for long-term accommodation and financial assistance, which aimed at helping them to stop sleeping on the streets.

- (ii) Urban hostels for single persons or short-term hostels operated by SWD-subvented NGOs and some hostels run by NGOs on a self-financing basis could provide temporary accommodation for street sleepers. The services teams would encourage the street sleepers to move in and during their stay at the short-term accommodation, explore with them the long-term solutions, such as applying for transitional housing, renting private accommodation, applying for public housing (including compassionate relocation) and applying for residential care services for the elderly. If the street sleepers were eligible for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA), the services team would help them apply for it.
- (iii) During their stay at the short-term accommodations, social workers would organise employment talks for the street sleepers and help improve their appearances and hygiene conditions. Those who were able to work would be encouraged to seek jobs and quit street sleeping.
- (iv) If the street sleepers had mental or physical health problems, the psychiatric nurses of the services teams would refer them to hospitals/clinics for treatment with the consent of the street sleepers.
- (v) Since welfare services had to be provided in accordance with the personal wishes and preferences of the street sleepers, the services teams would strive to enhance the willingness of the street sleepers to leave street sleeping behind and encourage them to accept appropriate assistance. The reasons behind street sleeping varied, and financial and family issues were among them. Many such cases could be resolved with the help of the services teams, such as through the provision of temporary accommodation, financial aid or even housing support. If a street sleeper refused assistance due to mental health issue, substance abuse or other reasons, the SWD and the services teams would continue to identify suitable ways to help them. Even recently, there had been cases in which street sleepers had broken away from street sleeping with the long-term intervention of social workers. The cases included the street

sleeper on Aberdeen Street/PMQ and another in Sai Wan, which Members had mentioned earlier at the meeting.

- (vi) Regarding the number of complaints about street sleepers, the SWD had not kept such statistics. The SWD and the services teams would pay attention to the complaints and follow up on them.
- (vii) When cold or inclement weather conditions were imminent, the services teams would alert the street sleepers in advance, provide them with warm clothing, blankets or quilts and inform them of the locations of short-term hostels/shelters/cold shelters and encourage them to move in.
- (viii) The SWD and the services teams were willing to collaborate with other departments. The role they played in joint operations was to encourage street sleepers to quit street sleeping and accept welfare assistance.
- (ix) The SWD had a street sleeper registration system for internal use, which contained the personal data of some street sleepers.

25. The representative of the FEHD responded that the department would actively participate in joint operations coordinated by other departments to remove the belongings of street sleepers.

26. In response to the inter-departmental information sharing system mentioned by Members earlier at the meeting, the representative of C&WDO said that colleagues of the SWD had explained that personal data of street sleepers might be involved in information sharing. In fact, to facilitate the implementation of inter-departmental joint operations, C&WDO currently maintained a simple database to record information on the black spots of street sleepers. He said that he would explore with the SWD the possibility of improving the inter-departmental database without disclosing excessive personal information, so that different departments and Members could have a clearer understanding of the situation of street sleepers in the C&W District.

27. A Member enquired whether the SWD or the FEHD could assist in clearing the household clutter of an elderly woman in Kennedy Town. He mentioned that the FEHD had

previously helped her clear the clutter over a decade ago and hoped that another round of assistance could be provided this time. He believed that after the clean-up, the elderly woman could live comfortably in her home for another 10 years.

28. A Member said that she wanted to know more about the details of inter-departmental joint operations. She mentioned that on the first day of the opening of her ward office, she had seen a notice on the quilt of a street sleeper indicating that cleaning would take place the next morning, but no one had shown up the next morning. She would like to know the specific arrangements of the joint operations and which departments would be involved; and in particular, whether the monthly operations organised by the C&WDO were implemented on a regular basis, and whether the specific work included talking to and visiting the street sleepers. In addition, she had endeavoured to make street sleepers feel cared for by the community by giving them small gifts on their birthday and special festivals. She also enquired whether the Government could step up its communication with DC members on the issue of street sleepers.

29. The representative of C&WDO replied that the joint operations were carried out once a month on a regular basis, which involved the work of different departments. For instance, the SWD would be responsible for approaching the street sleepers to understand their background and needs; while the FEHD would assess the on-site hygiene conditions and the extent of obstruction caused and carry out clean-up if necessary. However, as the belongings of street sleepers would be involved in the operations, the departments concerned would proceed with the operations in a prudent manner. Furthermore, he said that the office would enhance communication with DC members in dealing with the problem of street sleepers.

30. The representative of the FEHD replied that the FEHD would not take the initiative to clean up the items in private buildings, unless it involved the accumulation of garbage and had a serious impact on environmental hygiene. The FEHD would consider the individual cases based on their circumstances.

31. The Chairman declared the discussion closed and thanked the guests for attending the meeting.

**Item 5: Request for a briefing on the specific implementation of “Sport For All Day 2024”
in the Central and Western District**

(11:15 am – 11:29 am)

32. The Chairman welcomed guests to the meeting and announced that the agenda item was open for discussion.

33. A Member suggested that the National Games should be promoted alongside with Sport For All Day 2024, as they could complement each other and enhanced the effectiveness of the efforts on the promotion of sports activities. He pointed out that in recent years, many schools had become aware of the emerging sports through the School Sports Promotion Programme organised by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD). Emerging sports such as floor curling were regarded as more exciting than traditional sports and had the potential of attracting more public participation. He suggested that preview-style experiences of the emerging sports of the National Games, such as track cycling and petanque, should be included in Sport For All Day 2024. As the sport ambassador of the C&W District, he hoped to strengthen the co-operation with the Government in promoting the National Games and emerging sports through Sport For All Day.

34. The Vice-chairman queried the effectiveness of the Sport For All Day held annually. He considered that the organisation of sports activities for a few hours each year could hardly raise public interest and awareness in sport. He hoped that Members could work together to promote sports for all and complement the promotional and publicity work on Sport For All Day in their local communities, so that sports could be promoted across various districts, particularly in the C&W District.

35. A Member asked if the Sport For All Day was limited to just a one-day event, expressing doubt that it could have a genuine effect in the promotion of sports for all. He believed that the Government should take a more long-term approach, such as promoting the importance of physical exercise in schools to instil the healthy habit of regular exercise in children. He also suggested incorporating local characteristics of the district in the promotion of the Sport For All Day. For instance, long-distance running and water sport activities could be held in the Central and Western District Promenade, while the new open space on Eastern Street could be used for group yoga activities. These efforts would help residents develop long-term physical exercise habits, which aligned with the goal of the Sport For All Day.

36. A Member said that she was keen on promoting the Sport For All Day, whether as a member of the DC or a member of a community group. She planned to organise a parent-child sports day in the second half of the year, but was worried about the availability of a suitable venue. She asked whether the Government could provide venues for NGOs or non-profit making organisations for holding activities that helped to promote sports for all in the community.

37. The representative of the LCSD provided a consolidated reply as follows:

- (i) The LCSD agreed that the opportunity should be taken to promote both Sport for All Day 2024 and the National Games 2025 to the public, to encourage citizens to engage in regular sports and physical activities.
- (ii) On the promotion of emerging sports, the LCSD had taken note of the views of Members and would take them into account in planning future activities.
- (iii) To promote the message that regular exercise benefited both the mind and the body, the LCSD held the Sport For All Day in August every year. On that day, most recreational facilities across the 18 districts would be opened for public use and various physical activities would be held in designated sports centres, for the use and participation of all free of charge. This initiative aimed at promoting the importance of regular physical exercise to the public. The event had been well-received by the public each year. In addition, the LCSD organised and promoted various types of sports activities throughout the year to encourage the public to participate in sports and develop the habit of regular exercise to maintain good health.
- (iv) “Parent-child exercise for fun and fitness” would be the focus of the event this year, recognising the important role parental involvement played in encouraging children to participate in physical exercise. The LCSD encouraged parents to engage in physical activities with their children during their free time. The School Sports Programme Unit of the LCSD would collaborate with various sports associations and organise physical activities that catered for the primary and secondary students. In the C&W District, badminton had been chosen as a featured sport. The LCSD planned to

organise activities such as parent-child badminton training course and fun day, for the whole family to enjoy the sport together.

- (v) The LCSD had also taken note of Members' views and would assess the feasibility of using the C&W District Promenade and the new open space at Eastern Street North to organise special events in the future.
- (vi) The LCSD recognised the high demand for recreational venues from the public and organisations. To effectively manage the use of facilities and ensure that public facilities were fairly allocated to the public and organisations for hire, the LCSD had formulated a set of booking procedures for the relevant recreational and sports facilities, to cater for the needs of both the organisations and individuals. As regards the booking of individual venues, the LCSD advised that it could discuss the situation with Members after the meeting.

38. A Member suggested that the LCSD should take the opportunity to brief Members on the origin of the Sport For All Day.

39. A Member asked whether the Sport For All Day would accept sponsorship from the commercial or financial institutions operating in the district. He understood that there might be commercial elements involved and therefore would like to know whether commercial sponsorship would be acceptable.

40. In response, the representative of the LCSD explained that the Department had been organising the Sport for All Day in August every year since 2009, with the aim of promoting sports for all in the community and serving as an initiative in support of the National Fitness Day. The goal was not just to encourage citizens to exercise on the event day. It aimed to motivate people to continue engaging in physical activities after they had the experience during the event day. Regarding the possibility of accepting sponsorship from commercial organisations, the LCSD said that the issue had to be further examined.

41. A Member followed up by asking whether the LCSD was not opposed to the idea of commercial sponsorship.

42. The representative of the LCSD replied that there had been no precedent of accepting commercial sponsorship for the Sport For All Day, but the Department would examine the feasibility of the proposal.

43. The Chairman declared the discussion closed and thanked the guests for attending the meeting.

**Item 6: Complementing and promoting the Calendar of Mega Events in Hong Kong for the Second Half of 2024 in the Central and Western District
(C&W CICRC Paper No. 20/2024)**

(11:29 am – 11:33 am)

44. The Vice-chairman advised that an invitation had been sent by the Secretariat to the Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau (the Bureau) prior to the meeting, but the response from the Bureau was that they were unable to send a representative to attend the meeting.

45. A Member pointed out that while the number of events on the Calendar of Major Events in Hong Kong for the second half of 2024 was high, the publicity so far had been inadequate. He considered it a pity that tourists and local residents might miss out on the events due to the lack of publicity. He suggested that the Bureau should work with DC members to promote the events to the residents, for instance, distributing tickets for the events to the residents through DC members. Furthermore, DC members could also participate in the events themselves or play an important role in supporting the events.

46. The Chairman noted that many major events were held in the C&W District, and hoped the Bureau would consult the C&WDC during the planning stage of the events and involve DC members in the promotion of the events.

47. The Vice-chairman opined that the main purpose of hosting major events was to attract tourists to Hong Kong and create a festive atmosphere for local residents. However, due to insufficient publicity and venue constraints, it was difficult for the events to attract large numbers of visitors. He hoped that the Bureau would allow DC members to jointly promote the events or even participate in the events themselves. It was also hoped that the Bureau would give a written reply in respect of Members' proposal after the meeting.

48. The Vice-chairman declared the discussion closed.

Item 7: Request for a briefing on the broadcasting rights and publicity for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, and how District Council Members may complement the corresponding publicity in the Central and Western District (C&W CICRC Paper No. 21/2024)

(11:33 am – 11:40 am)

49. The Vice-chairman advised that an invitation had been sent by the Secretariat to the Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau (the Bureau) prior to the meeting, but the response from the Bureau was that they were unable to send a representative to attend the meeting.

50. The Vice-chairman said that according to the document submitted, the Government had already purchased the television broadcasting rights for the 2024 Paris Olympics. He suggested that government departments should open up more indoor facilities, such as sports centres and community halls, to allow the public to watch the live broadcast of the games featuring the Hong Kong team so as to enhance the atmosphere of the events.

51. A Member suggested that the C&WDO and sports associations in the district should organise live-streaming events of major competitions and invite residents and athletes from the District to attend the events and cheer for the athletes who represented our country and Hong Kong in the Games. He believed this would help to create a more vibrant atmosphere.

52. A Member recalled that similar events had been held during the previous Olympics, and the atmosphere had been vibrant and lively. He hoped that relevant departments could inform DC members of the details of such events as early as possible, so that they could help promote the events to residents in the district.

53. The Chairman suggested that live broadcasts of the Olympic events should be held in community halls and venues managed by the LCSD in the district to allow residents to watch the games together.

54. The Vice-chairman hoped that the LCSD and the C&WDO would provide written replies in respect of Members' proposals after the meeting. He then proceeded to declare the discussion closed.

Item 8: 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. 15/2024)

(11:40 am)

55. The Vice-chairman invited Members to note the paper.

Item 9: Arts and Cultural Activities in 2024-25 in the Central and Western District organised by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department
(C&W CICRC Paper No. 16/2024)

(11:41 am)

56. The Vice-chairman invited Members to note the paper.

Item 10: 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. 17/2024)

(11:41 am)

57. The Vice-chairman invited Members to note the paper.

Item 11: Any Other Business

(11:41 am)

58. The Vice-chairman advised that there was no further business for discussion.

Item 12: Date of Next Meeting

(11:41 am)

59. The Vice-chairman said that the next meeting would be held on 1 August 2024 and the paper submission deadline would be on 17 July 2024.

60. The meeting was adjourned at 11:41 am.

The minutes were confirmed on 1 August 2024

Chairman: Mr LAW Kam-fai

Secretary: Mr YEUNG Lok-san, Rio

Central and Western District Council Secretariat
August 2024