

Minutes of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Eastern District Council

Date : 30 October 2018 (Tuesday)

Time : 2:30 pm

Venue : Eastern District Council Conference Room

<u>Present</u>	<u>Time of Arrival</u> <u>(pm)</u>	<u>Time of Departure</u> <u>(pm)</u>
Mr TING Kong-ho, Eddie	2:30	end of meeting
Mr WONG Chi-chung, Dominic	2:30	end of meeting
Mr WONG Chun-sing, Patrick	2:30	end of meeting
Mr KU Kwai-yiu	2:30	end of meeting
Mr HO Ngai-kam, Stanley	2:30	end of meeting
Ms LI Chun-chau	2:30	end of meeting
Mr LEE Chun-keung	2:30	end of meeting
Mr LAM Sum-lim	2:30	end of meeting
Mr LAM Kei-tung, George	2:40	end of meeting
Mr SHIU Ka-fai	2:30	end of meeting
Mr HUNG Lin-cham, MH	2:30	3:40
Mr CHUI Chi-kin	2:30	end of meeting
Mr CHEUNG Kwok-cheong, Howard	2:37	end of meeting
Mr LEUNG Siu-sun, Patrick	2:40	end of meeting
Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung, David	2:30	end of meeting
Ms LEUNG Wing-man, Bonnie	4:14	end of meeting
Mr HUI Lam-hing	2:30	end of meeting
Mr HUI Ching-on	2:40	3:30
Mr KWOK Wai-keung, Aron, JP	2:30	2:52
Mr MAK Tak-ching	3:50	end of meeting
Ms CHIK Kit-ling, Elaine	2:30	end of meeting
Mr WONG Kin-pan, BBS, MH, JP (Chairman)	2:30	end of meeting
Mr WONG Kin-hing	3:00	end of meeting
Mr YEUNG Sze-chun	2:30	end of meeting
Dr CHIU Ka-yin, Andrew	2:30	end of meeting
Mr CHIU Chi-keung, BBS (Vice-chairman)	2:30	end of meeting
Mr LAU Hing-yeung	2:30	end of meeting
Ms CHOY So-yuk, BBS, JP	3:20	end of meeting
Mr CHENG Chi-sing	2:35	end of meeting
Mr CHENG Tat-hung	2:35	end of meeting
Mr LAI Chi-keong, Joseph	2:30	end of meeting
Mr NGAN Chun-lim, MH	2:30	end of meeting
Mr LO Wing-kwan, Frankie, MH	2:30	end of meeting
Mr KUNG Pak-cheung, BBS, MH	2:30	end of meeting

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Absent with Apologies

Mr WONG Kwok-hing, BBS, MH

In Regular Attendance (Government Representatives)

Mr CHAN Sheung-man, Simon, JP	District Officer (Eastern), Eastern District Office
Miss NGAI Lai-ying, Angora	Assistant District Officer (Eastern) 1, Eastern District Office
Mr LO Cheuk-lun, Rayson	Assistant District Officer (Eastern) 2, Eastern District Office
Mr LEUNG Tsz-kin	Deputy District Commander (Eastern District), Hong Kong Police Force
Ms LAU Tak-yi	Police Community Relations Officer (Eastern District), Hong Kong Police Force
Miss CHAN Wai-lin, Rose	Senior Housing Manager (Hong Kong Island and Islands 1), Housing Department
Mr LAU Kin-kwok	Chief Transport Officer/Hong Kong, Transport Department
Mr TSANG Wing-lok, Gabriel	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Eastern), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr LUK Chi-kwong	Chief Leisure Manager (Hong Kong East), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms TAM Shiu-mei	District Leisure Manager (Eastern), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr CHAO Ka-man, Stanley	Senior Liaison Officer (1), Eastern District Office
Ms WONG Sze-man, Queenie	Senior Liaison Officer (2), Eastern District Office
Mr KWAN Yu-keung	Senior Liaison Officer (3), Eastern District Office
Ms KONG Kei-kei, Hayley	Senior Executive Officer (District Management), Eastern District Office

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In Attendance by Invitation (Representatives from the Government and Organisations)

Mr LAU Chun-kit, Ricky, JP	Director of Civil Engineering and Development, Civil Engineering and Development Department
Mr MA Hon-wing, Wilson	Chief Engineer/ South 3, Civil Engineering and Development Department
Ms LEUNG Tik-yan	Senior Engineer/ Public Relations, Civil Engineering and Development Department

Secretary

Miss WAH Pui-yee, Vivian	Senior Executive Officer (District Council), Eastern District Office
Ms NG Yan-mei, Monie	Senior Executive Officer (District Council) (Designate), Eastern District Office

Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed Councillors and government representatives to the meeting, particularly Mr Ricky LAU, JP, Director of Civil Engineering and Development, Mr Wilson MA, Chief Engineer/ South 3 and Ms LEUNG Tik-yan, Senior Engineer/ Public Relations of the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD). He extended his welcome to Mr Rayson LO, Assistant District Officer (Eastern)2, Mr Stanley CHAO, Senior Liaison Officer (1) and Mr KWAN Yu-keung, Senior Liaison Officer (3) of the Eastern District Office (EDO). He also welcomed Mr LEUNG Tsz-kin, Deputy District Commander (Eastern District) of the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) who attended the meeting on behalf of Mr Rupert Timothy Alan DOVER, District Commander (Eastern District) and Miss Rose CHAN, Senior Housing Manager (Hong Kong Island and Islands 1) of the Housing Department (HD) who attended the meeting on behalf of Mrs Helen CHEUNG, Chief Manager/Management (Hong Kong Island and Islands).

2. The Chairman reminded Councillors to declare interests where necessary in accordance with Section 48 of the Standing Orders of the Eastern District Council (EDC).

I. Confirmation of the Draft Minutes of the Fourteenth Eastern District Council Meeting

3. The above draft minutes were confirmed without amendments.

II. Director of Civil Engineering and Development to Meet Eastern District Council Members

4. Mr Ricky LAU, JP, Director of Civil Engineering and Development, briefed Councillors on the work of the CEDD.

5. 19 Councillors expressed their views with enquiries as summarised below:

- (a) Mr Joseph LAI said that during the Chief Secretary for Administration's visit to the Eastern District, he had proposed retrofitting a lift at the circular staircase outside Fung Wah Estate to connect Fung Ha Road and Fei Tsui Road. However, the liaison with HD for follow-up action had made no progress. He suggested constructing the said facility by allocating resources under the Universal Accessibility Programme (UA Programme) in order to facilitate access by the elderly in the estate.
- (b) Mr KUNG Pak-cheung pointed out that there was a lack of resources to construct barrier-free access facilities at various places either because private ownership was involved or because the sites were under the purview of HD. In light of the aging population, he hoped that the Government would extend the UA Programme to cover the sites under the purview of HD so as to retrofit lifts to benefit the elderly in the Eastern District.
- (c) Mr Andrew CHIU commended the CEDD for its efforts in carrying out consultancy work regarding the boardwalk under the Island Eastern Corridor, implementing related community engagement exercises and actively gauging the views of stakeholders, including the locals and Councillors. He hoped that the Development Bureau and the CEDD could accept the view of retaining the 10-metre wide boardwalk and

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submit the revised proposal to the EDC for consultation as soon as possible. Besides, he declared that some of his friends and relatives were living in Heng Fa Chuen, the area which suffered from seawater inundation caused by huge waves during the passage of typhoon Mangkhut. He understood that Councillors of the area had been following up on the issue with the CEDD. However, he still expressed his hope that the CEDD would consider constructing breakwaters and placing dolosse at the site without delay in order to safeguard the safety of the public.

- (d) Mr HUNG Lin-cham urged the CEDD to implement the project of the boardwalk under the Island Eastern Corridor expeditiously and to consider the stakeholders' view of retaining the width of 10 metres. In addition, he stated that infrastructure and land development had been of utmost importance to Hong Kong's future development. Therefore, he agreed with the major policy direction of "Lantau Tomorrow Vision". Nevertheless, government projects had experienced cost overrun and delay from time to time. The problem of quality control was even involved in some of these projects. He thus hoped that the Government would step up efforts to enhance the public's confidence in government projects of infrastructure.
- (e) Mr CHUI Chi-kin voiced his concern over the delay in projects under the UA Programme and hoped that the CEDD would make improvements accordingly. Besides, the Government had identified 48 Strategic Cavern Areas (SCVAs) located in various districts in Hong Kong, including three areas in the Eastern District, namely, Chai Wan Au, Shau Kei Wan and Braemar Hill. However, the Government had not announced its plans of cavern development yet. He enquired whether the CEDD could provide information and schedule of the plan concerned, which would be an attempt to tackle the problem of insufficient land supply.
- (f) Mr Howard CHEUNG expressed his concern over the issue of the woodside site at Mount Parker being reserved for school construction purpose. Despite Councillors' repeated reflection of the public's opposition against school construction at the site, the Education Bureau (EDB) insisted the need to reserve the site for school construction purpose on the grounds that no substitute site which met

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the EDB's requirements could be found on Hong Kong Island. According to the latest report from the EDB, the EDB was currently liaising with the CEDD about the updated analysis on the technical feasibility of school construction at the site. He hoped that the CEDD would follow up on the issue of the woodside site proactively and carefully consider factors such as the woodside slopes when providing professional advice on whether the site would be appropriate for school construction.

- (g) Mr Patrick LEUNG pointed out that although the CEDD stated that it was currently following up on the project of boardwalk under the Island Eastern Corridor proactively, the revised proposal had not yet been submitted by the CEDD within a certain period of time after its work in gauging public views. He hoped that the revised proposal would both be in compliance with the Protection of the Harbour Ordinance and meet the public expectation by providing cycling tracks and a 10-metre wide boardwalk for public use. Besides, he said that Heng Fa Chuen had been subjected to the impacts of waves during the passage of typhoons and data from the CEDD indicated that sea swell over 5 metres had been recorded at Kau Yi Chau. He was thus concerned about the measures against wave impacts under the Lantau reclamation project. In addition, he enquired of the CEDD about its regulatory measures on the use of explosives by contractors and about the methods for assessing whether the explosives would jeopardise the structural safety of existing buildings.

- (h) Ms Elaine CHIK opined that the UA Programme would benefit the public by allowing easier access. She thus hoped that the Government would extend it to cover public housing estates, so that residents would be able to use lifts to facilitate travelling. Besides, in order to further optimise the waterfront site, she hoped that a width of 10 metres could be retained for the boardwalk under the Island Eastern Corridor. In addition, she said that the existing breakwaters were not high enough to withstand wave impacts during the passage of typhoon Mangkhut. She hoped that the CEDD would improve the facilities such as breakwaters and so on in order to ensure the safety of vessels moored at typhoon shelters.

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- (i) Mr LAU Hing-yeung commended the frontline staff of the CEDD for their proactive communication with Councillors and the HD when carrying out the works of the footbridge across Chai Wan Road near Shan Tsui Court (HF63) under the UA Programme. Unfortunately, a lift could not be retrofitted at the footbridge's end near Hing Man Estate due to considerations such as viability. He hoped that the CEDD would consider working out an alternative proposal in this regard. Moreover, he hoped that the Government would extend the UA Programme to cover public housing estates under the purview of HD. He highlighted that as Hing Man Estate was constructed along the hillside and had not been equipped with barrier-free access facilities, great inconvenience had been caused to elderly residents therein. He hoped that the CEDD would examine the possibility of retrofitting the facilities concerned at appropriate locations.
- (j) Mr HUI Lam-hing pointed out that the staired footpath at the junction of Sai Wan Ho Street and Holy Cross Path connecting Tung Yan Court had caused inconvenience to residents, giving rise to the need for elderly people and wheelchair users to make a detour and access Tung Yan Court via Yiu Hing Road. He hoped that the footpath concerned would either be rebuilt into a ramp or be equipped with barrier-free access facilities such as lifts under the UA Programme. He believed that the Government should attach importance to the problem concerned and ensure the safety of pedestrians. Besides, Heng Fa Chuen had been hard hit during the passage of various typhoons. He hoped that the CEDD would face the public safety problem squarely and put improvement measures in place.
- (k) Mr LEE Chun-keung expressed gratitude for the CEDD's efforts in maintaining slope safety, which had been manifested in the limited number of landslide reports during the passage of typhoon Mangkhut. Moreover, he, on behalf of Mr SHIU Ka-fai, expressed the concern of Braemar Hill's residents over post-typhoon slope safety and also the hope for the CEDD's arrangement of inspection accordingly. Besides, he enquired whether the CEDD had drafted any cavern development plans for the three SCVAs in the Eastern District.
- (l) Ms LI Chun-chau voiced her concern over the works progress of the footbridge across Chai Wan Road near Shan Tsui Court (HF63). The

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project had been carried out for over five years since its commencement upon the consultation of the EDC in 2013, but the works had still not been completed. The enclosure arrangement of the works had not only caused inconvenience to the residents nearby (wheelchair users in particular) but also triggered the problems of feral pigeon congregation and environmental hygiene. Some residents had repeatedly informed her of the safety problems experienced during their access to and from the neighbourhood. She requested that the CEDD account for the reasons why the works had not yet been completed. She also urged the CEDD to consider improving the works arrangements.

- (m) Mr Stanley HO said that the CEDD's consultancy study regarding Heng Fa Chuen would last for 18 to 24 months and it would take time for the formulation of preventive measures. He indicated that Heng Fa Chuen had been seriously affected during the passage of various typhoons. He urged the CEDD to expedite the study and to launch the construction of offshore protective breakwater-like facilities off the seawall as soon as possible in order to ensure public safety. Moreover, he had compiled and consolidated residents' views for submission to the CEDD in the hope that the CEDD would take those views into consideration in the study report.
- (n) Mr KU Kwai-yiu expressed concern over the projects under the UA Programme. He pointed out that the repair works of lifts required improvement. It often took a long time for the repair works to be completed and the public was unable to use the lifts during the works. He suggested the CEDD arrange for inspection and repair on a regular basis so as to reduce the need for prolonged suspension of lift service caused by lift failures. Besides, he indicated that the discussion on the plan of constructing the boardwalk under the Island Eastern Corridor had been going on for many years. He hoped that the CEDD would launch the project as soon as possible in order to facilitate early provision of related facilities for public use.
- (o) Mr Patrick WONG believed that the CEDD had gauged plenty of views in the two community engagement exercises and had been clearly aware of Councillors' views on the boardwalk under the Island Eastern Corridor. The Government had revised the design concerned

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in view of the Protection of the Harbour Ordinance and the concerns expressed by certain groups. He hoped that the CEDD would consult the EDC on the revised proposal without delay so as to commence the works as soon as possible. Besides, the construction works of the lifts in Quarry Bay Park under the UA Programme were currently in progress and the lifts were estimated to be commissioned for public use by the end of this year. He thanked the CEDD's team for its close monitoring of the contractor's work and its proactive reporting to the Councillors concerned on the works progress.

- (p) Mr Eddie TING said that the Government had conducted two community engagement exercises on the boardwalk under the Island Eastern Corridor for gauging views from the public in this regard. In general, the public expressed support for the design of the boardwalk, believing that the boardwalk would both enable the enjoyment of waterfront view and reserve sufficient space for retrofitting cycling track facilities. He opined that the Government should retain the width of the boardwalk at 10 metres. He also urged the CEDD to brief the EDC on the revised proposal and give an account of the progress.
- (q) Mr CHENG Tat-hung said that the EDC requested that the boardwalk of 10-metre width be retained. He hoped that the CEDD would give an account of the progress and also provide an estimated timeframe for Stage 3. Moreover, he voiced his concern over the waterfront development along the northern shore of Hong Kong Island. He also enquired about the timeframes for the Urban Design Study for the Wan Chai North and North Point Harbourfront Areas and the Urban Design Study for the New Central Harbourfront respectively. In light of the large number of tree collapsing incidents during the passage of a typhoon earlier on, he enquired of the CEDD whether factors such as extreme weather would be taken into consideration when selecting the appropriate type of tree for replanting under its management. Besides, according to the media coverage on the CEDD's archaeological impact assessment report for the reclamation area in Wan Chai North, salvage operations of the wreck of the naval vessel HMS Tamar, which might have sunk during World War II, were being undertaken in the reclamation area. He enquired of the CEDD about the salvage progress. In addition, he expressed concern over whether the

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CEDD would put measures in place to encourage private property owners in their maintenance of private slopes.

- (r) The Vice-chairman expressed gratitude to the CEDD's frontline staff for their proactive communication and minimisation of the impacts brought by the works to the public during the repairs of the slope at Yiu Hing Road. Besides, he suggested the Government develop the cavern areas and then relocate facilities which had not been welcomed by the local community into those sites, so as to release more ground space for other development purposes. In addition, he was concerned that the seawalls in certain coastal areas in the Eastern District, particularly the vicinity of Siu Sai Wan Sports Ground and Heng Fa Chuen, were not able to withstand waves. He hoped that the CEDD would conduct a review and raise the height of the seawalls. Besides, a number of public housing estates under the management of the HD in the Eastern District had been constructed along the hillside and encountered difficulty in retrofitting barrier-free access facilities on pedestrian walkways due to resource constraints. In light of the aging population, he hoped that the Government would extend the UA Programme to cover the public housing estates concerned for allowing easy access by the elderly.
- (s) The Chairman pointed out that a footbridge had been constructed under the UA Programme across Island Eastern Corridor near Quarry Bay Park and the lift project concerned had been delayed due to the contractor's performance. He hoped that the CEDD would adopt stringent standards when selecting contractors for projects in order to avoid hindrance to works progress due to unsatisfactory service quality of contractors. Besides, the discussion on the construction of the boardwalk under the Island Eastern Corridor had been going on for many years. He urged the CEDD to expedite the revision of the proposal and to retrofit cycling track facilities so as to optimise the network of cycling tracks on Hong Kong Island. Besides, he hoped that the CEDD would carefully consider the materials adopted, the height of seawalls and so on when designing the boardwalk in order to cope with extreme weather conditions.

6. Mr Ricky LAU, JP, Director of Civil Engineering and Development, thanked Councillors for their views and their recognition of the work of the CEDD's staff. He responded to their views and enquiries as follows:

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- (a) He understood Councillors' hope for the Government to commence the project of the boardwalk under the Island Eastern Corridor as soon as possible. After two rounds of public consultation, the CEDD had gauged plenty of views from stakeholders and the local community. The CEDD also noted Councillors' views on the width of the boardwalk, cycling track facilities, the need for the design to be able to cope with extreme weather conditions and so on. The CEDD was currently optimising the proposal in response to the views summed up in the hope of consulting the EDC on the revised proposal as soon as possible.

- (b) Regarding the UA Programme, the CEDD had reported in the meeting on the progress of the three projects carried out in the Eastern District, including a project which had been completed early this year and the remaining two projects (namely, HF63, the footbridge across Chai Wan Road near Shan Tsui Court (Hing Man Estate), and HF92 and HF92A, the footbridges across Island Eastern Corridor near Quarry Bay Park) which were estimated to be completed for public use by the end of this year due to different problems. The CEDD thanked Councillors for their valuable views throughout the projects. As a matter of fact, the CEDD had always attached great importance to monitoring the performance of contractors and would rate their performance on a quarterly basis. If a contractor was given an adverse quarterly performance report, its bidding for the CEDD's works contracts in future might be affected. As for the extension of the UA Programme, the Highways Department (HyD) implemented the Next Phase of the UA Programme in 2016. As regards Councillors' suggestion to extend the UA Programme to cover the housing estates under the purview of the HD and so on, the CEDD would relay their views to the departments concerned and would offer professional advice when necessary.

- (c) Regarding the severe flooding and damage caused to coastal places in the Eastern District, such as Heng Fa Chuen and Siu Sai Wan Sports Ground, by the passage of typhoon Mangkhut, the CEDD would conduct a comprehensive review on low-lying coastal and windy locations, and carry out relevant studies on storm surges and waves, so as to assess the impacts of extreme weather caused by climate changes

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to the locations concerned. Based on the findings of the studies, the CEDD would formulate countermeasures and resilience measures, including improvement works and management measures. Besides, the CEDD was currently joining efforts with the departments concerned, including the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) and the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD), in examining the possibility and proposals of strengthening the wave prevention facilities in the Heng Fa Chuen Playground, for instance, to consider the installation of wave protection walls and so on at the coastal planter areas of the playground, with a view to enhancing the resistance to storm surges. As for Siu Sai Wan Sports Ground, the CEDD noted that the departments concerned were exploring engineering improvement measures to alleviate the impact of flooding on the local community.

- (d) Regarding cavern development, the CEDD had completed the “Long-term Strategy for Cavern Development – Feasibility Study” and formulated the territory-wide Cavern Master Plan, identifying 48 SCVAs which had been considered to have technical and strategic potentials for development. Proposals for future cavern development should be drawn up in accordance with the development needs and the findings of the detailed study on the technical feasibility of each specific project as well as other related factors.
- (e) The Government had been making endeavour to enhance the public’s understanding of slope safety and explain to private property owners about their responsibility in slope maintenance. If private property owners had any enquiries about slope safety and repair and maintenance issues, they could contact the CEDD’s Community Advisory Unit at telephone number 2760 5800 to seek information and advisory service.
- (f) Regarding the monitoring of the use of explosives in projects, the CEDD had established a stringent mechanism to ensure the quality of the contractors, and to ensure that the storage and use of explosives would be in compliance with the laws and the safety requirements concerned.

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- (g) Regarding the issue of the woodside site at Mount Parker, the staff members concerned from the CEDD would contact the Councillors concerned for follow-up later on.

7. The Chairman thanked Mr Ricky LAU, JP, Director of Civil Engineering and Development and his colleagues for attending the meeting. He also invited them to note Councillors' views.

III. Discussion on the 2018 Policy Address

8. The Chairman said that the 2018 Policy Address delivered on 10 October 2018 had been distributed to Councillors.

9. 18 Councillors expressed their views with enquiries as summarised below:

- (a) Mr Eddie TING said that proposal to adjust the tolls of the three road harbour crossings announced in the Policy Address might not be able to achieve the desired outcome of reasonably re-distributing cross-harbour traffic. In view of the different geographical locations of the three harbour crossings, motorists would select the appropriate harbour crossing according to factors such as distance, the time required and so on. Raising the tolls of Cross Harbour Tunnel and Eastern Harbour Crossing might not effectively boost the usage rate of Western Harbour Crossing but would add financial burden to users of Cross Harbour Tunnel and Eastern Harbour Crossing. He hoped that the Government would take heed of public views and revise the proposal.
- (b) Mr Dominic WONG thanked the Government for its efforts in infrastructure. The commissioning of the Hong Kong Section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link and the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge benefitted members of the public on their trips to and from the Mainland. He expressed concern over paragraph 241 on the social support for ex-mentally ill persons. He hoped that the Government would enhance the work in this regard. According to studies conducted by the World Health Organization, the disease burden caused by depression and other mental illnesses had been increasing. He urged the Government to proactively address the

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problems concerned and provide appropriate support for persons with mental illnesses and ex-mentally ill persons.

- (c) Ms LI Chun-chau said that in general, members of the public in her constituency did not support proposal to adjust the tolls of the three road harbour crossings announced in the Policy Address. She opined that currently, there was traffic congestion at Eastern Harbour Crossing during peak hours, and residents in the Eastern District usually travelled to Kowloon via Eastern Harbour Crossing. Adjusting tunnel tolls in accordance with the proposal might not necessarily improve the situation.
- (d) Ms CHOY So-yuk opined that in order to tackle the problem of traffic congestion at Cross Harbour Tunnel, the Government should consider other approaches, such as buying back Western Harbour Crossing and opening the three harbour crossings for public use free of charge, or discussing with the operator of Western Harbour Crossing for toll reduction to align the toll levels of the three harbour crossings and paying the operator of Western Harbour Crossing the toll differences with government subsidies. Regarding land supply, she was not opposed to reclamation in the open sea. However, as it would take time for land reclamation, she believed that public-private partnerships would be a more timely and effective approach to increase housing supply than reclamation. Nevertheless, she voiced concern over the Land Sharing Pilot Scheme. If the existing procedures of the Town Planning Board had to be followed and a specific proportion of the increased floor areas had to be used for public housing development mainly with subsidised sale flats, the participation of private land owners might be affected. She suggested the Government introduce measures to encourage participation among private land owners.
- (e) Mr Stanley HO said that the proposal to adjust the tolls of the three road harbour crossings announced in the Policy Address was mainly based on the projections of different tolling models. He suggested that if the Government deemed that aligning the toll levels of the three harbour crossings would facilitate the reasonable re-distribution of cross-harbour traffic, then it could adopt other options, such as opening the three harbour crossings for public use free of charge on a pilot basis so as to collect data on the vehicular flow and so on for

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achieving accurate assessment on the actual effectiveness of traffic re-distribution. Moreover, he said that there was currently traffic congestion in all the three harbour crossings during peak hours. The congestion both stemmed from the high vehicular flow of each harbour crossing and the impacts from the traffic conditions of individual connecting roads. The congestion problem would be inevitably aggravated by the heavy traffic on the roads concerned.

- (f) Mr Patrick LEUNG said that the Lantau Tomorrow Vision would cost HK\$1,000 billion. According to the population projections, Hong Kong population would reach a peak of approximately 8.22 million in future. However, the Government had neither provided an estimated figure for residents under the vision nor established the land demand under the development project. He opined that spending public funds on welfare of the public, such as projects of constructing elderly homes, public hospitals, facilities for ex-mentally ill persons and so on, would bring more benefits to the well-being of the society. Moreover, he pointed out that reclamation was not the only means for increasing land supply. He suggested the Government first consider resumption of sites, such as military sites, Fanling Golf Course and so on, for increasing land supply. Besides, he did not support the unreasonable proposal of toll increase for the three harbour crossings. He believed that the Government should adjust downwards the toll of Western Harbour Crossing rather than punish users of Eastern Harbour Crossing.
- (g) Mr CHUI Chi-kin expressed disappointment with the Policy Address. The Lantau Tomorrow Vision was not an inevitable development project and there were a few other options. Though the housing units constructed under the vision would only be available 14 years later, the Government still adopted such time-consuming approach which involved a considerable amount of public funds, and bypassed the outcome of the consultation conducted by the Task Force on Land Supply. He deemed it a total disregard of public views. The vision was also unable to provide assistance to persons facing prevailing accommodation problems. Regarding the Land Sharing Pilot Scheme, there had been many voices of opposition, calling on avoidance of collusion between businesses and the Government. The Government had been stressing the hope to maintain the average waiting time for

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public rental housing at about three years. Nevertheless, a proposal which would require residents to wait for ten-odd years had now been put forward. Its effectiveness in resolving the housing problem was disappointing. Besides, he expressed disappointment with the Government's claim that there was no room for revising the proposal of adjusting the tolls of the three road harbour crossings. By claiming so, the Government seemed to be compelling the public to accept the proposal. He remained skeptical of the Government's sincerity in addressing the problems.

- (h) Mr Andrew CHIU expressed deep regret at the failure of the Policy Address to provide under the section of District Administration any proposals of amending the District Council Ordinance. Since Hong Kong's return to the motherland, the Government had failed to honour its undertaking to devolve actual municipal powers to District Councils and return the power to regulate municipal affairs to the people. As for the Lantau Tomorrow Vision, the political party to which he belonged was not opposed to reclamation as one of the means to increase land supply. However, the proposed development of the artificial islands would involve enormous spending. Infrastructure would have to be built and it was doubtful whether the artificial islands would be capable of withstanding extreme weather. The vision would thus inevitably arouse public concern that the development project might be a waste of public funds. Besides, as regards legal services, he expressed concern that the Government had only been making efforts to promote Hong Kong as a centre for international legal and dispute resolution services in the Asia-Pacific region but had not promoted the development of the more effective online dispute resolution services, resulting in the failure to promote the use of mediation and arbitration in local civil cases. Besides, he said that he was absolutely opposed to the proposal to adjust the tolls of the three road harbour crossings, deeming the suggestion of subsidising the operator of Western Harbour Crossing undesirable. The majority of residents in the Eastern District hoped for toll reduction of Eastern Harbour Crossing. As for building management, the Building Management Dispute Resolution Service was steered by retired Judges, whose credibility was unquestionable. However, the retired Judges might not have sufficient expertise in assessing building management cases. Therefore, he opined that it would be more

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appropriate to deal with such cases through building management mediation.

- (i) Mr HUI Lam-hing hoped that the Government would revise the proposal of adjusting the tolls of the three road harbour crossings by reducing the toll of Western Harbour Crossing and subsidising the operator of Western Harbour Crossing with government funds so as to align the toll level of Western Harbour Crossing to a similar level as those of Cross Harbour Tunnel and Eastern Harbour Crossing and thus encourage the public to achieve a more even utilisation rate of the three harbour crossings. Besides, he believed that reclamation had been playing a key role in the development of Hong Kong from a small fishing port into the cosmopolitan city nowadays.

- (j) Mr CHENG Tat-hung condemned the Government for introducing the irreversible reclamation project of Lantau Tomorrow Vision without having fully utilised land resources. He pointed out that Hong Kong was not in lack of land and there was farmland in the New Territories. Nevertheless, the Government had never shown determination in addressing the housing problem by seriously dealing with the problems such as the hoarding of plenty of farmland in the New Territories by developers. Besides, he considered the discussion at this meeting meaningless. He opined that Councillors should be given the opportunity to express their views before the presentation of both the Policy Address and the Budget. However, the Government only solicited views after the presentation with neither replies to Councillors' views nor the delegation of any representatives to attend the meeting. He expressed deep regret and condemnation in this regard.

- (k) Mr Joseph LAI said that he had been working at the EDC for many years and had been speaking in regard to the Policy Address every year. He believed that the Government should send representatives to attend the meeting if it was genuinely willing to heed public opinions. Regarding the development of a democratic political system, the Basic Law stipulated that a democratic political system would be developed in a gradual manner for Hong Kong people and that the goals of selection of the Chief Executive and formation of the Legislative Council (the LegCo) by universal suffrage through "one person, one

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vote” would eventually be achieved. However, up till now, no progress had been witnessed. The Chief Executive had not even mentioned the political reform in the Policy Address. He hoped that the selection of the Chief Executive by universal suffrage through “one person, one vote” without any screening process would be put into practice during his lifetime. He also hoped that all functional constituencies in the LegCo would be abolished in 2020 and all LegCo Members would be elected by “one person, one vote”.

- (l) Mr LAM Sum-lim was supportive of the Lantau Tomorrow Vision, opining that there had been voices of opposition in society against different land supply proposals, such as land resumption, reclamation, resumption of brownfield sites and so on. The Lantau Tomorrow Vision was the only proposal over which the Government could have better control and which enabled the Government to have more say when taking forward other options of land supply. If reclamation projects were not taken forward now, the land-hoarding developers might have more bargaining power due to the prolonged shortage of housing supply. Such situation would give rise to genuine collusion between businesses and the Government. He remembered that when reclamation was to be conducted at Shau Kei Wan for developing Aldrich Bay, there had also been voices of opposition in society that urged for the preservation of the typhoon shelter. Nevertheless, the importance of such development had now been fully realised. He hoped that the land problems in Hong Kong could be addressed by a multi-pronged approach.
- (m) Ms Elaine CHIK said, with regard to the proposal on the three road harbour crossings, that if the Government aspired to encourage the re-distribution of cross-harbour traffic and alleviate traffic congestion, it should put forward measures to boost the usage rate of Western Harbour Crossing rather than punish motorists using other harbour crossings. She suggested that the Government should reduce the toll of harbour crossings with lower usage rate to attract motorists’ rather than increase the toll of harbour crossings with higher usage rate to encourage motorists to use other harbour crossings. Regarding the Lantau Tomorrow Vision, the Government had considered other proposals as well. However, the proposals concerned had aroused controversy for many years and remained difficult to implement. She

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opined that rather than wasting time, it would be more desirable to commence the study and planning of reclamation as soon as possible.

- (n) Mr MAK Tak-ching said that reclamation for the development of artificial islands of 1 700 hectares was the major concern in the Policy Address. The reclamation area under the Lantau Tomorrow Vision exceeded the 1 000 hectares as suggested by the Task Force on Land Supply. The estimated cost was HK\$1,000 billion and the fiscal reserves would almost be exhausted. He opined that in view of the plenty of voices of opposition in society and the impossibility to immediately increase land supply by reclamation, priority should be granted to other less time-consuming proposals, such as the development of brownfield sites, the resumption of the golf course site, the exploration of the option of utilising the over 300-hectare of vacant government land mentioned in the study report. He indicated that that part of the fiscal reserves should be spent on projects on elderly care, medical care and social welfare. He expressed disappointment that the Policy Address had made no further commitment on various aspects, such as the supply of public rental housing, elderly care service, the offsetting of the Mandatory Provident Fund for supplementing employees' income and so on.
- (o) Mr YEUNG Sze-chun said that the land problems could not be resolved by a single policy. He hoped that the Government could, alongside with reclamation, take into consideration the proposals put forward by the Task Force on Land Supply, such as the resumption of brownfield land, the utilisation of vacant government land, etc. He understood that the resumption of brownfield sites, land owned by indigenous residents and some other land would involve various problems. Nevertheless, the Government had to adopt a multi-pronged approach when attempting to tackle the problem of land supply. Regarding youth work, room for development and upward social mobility were young people's concerns. Although the Policy Address mentioned that assistance would be provided to young people for starting up their business, the number of beneficiaries was limited. He hoped that the Government would step up efforts to provide development opportunities for more young people. Besides, he understood that the Government aspired to achieve effective re-distribution of the cross-harbour traffic of the three road harbour

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crossings by implementing the proposal of toll increase. However, he suggested that the Government should put in place measures such as exempting mass transport carriers from paying tunnel tolls and thus reducing the fare concerned to encourage the public to use mass transport carriers more frequently, so as to help reducing the traffic volume of private vehicles in the three harbour crossings to alleviate the problem of congestion.

- (p) Mr George LAM said that the Lantau Tomorrow Vision would be a long-term project. If the study and planning were not commenced now, the shortage of housing supply would persist. The Government would then be unable to meet future housing development needs and thus unable to effectively address the housing problem faced by the next generation. He also said that the Government had repeatedly explained that the project would not require a one-off expenditure of HK\$500 billion or HK\$1,000 billion, and that the site concerned would generate land-sale revenue. Therefore, the project of Lantau Tomorrow Vision should be commenced for the well-being of the next generation.
- (q) The Vice-chairman said that the Lantau Tomorrow Vision aimed at increasing the land supply for the next generation and tackling the housing problem. When putting forward the resumption of sites such as farmland, golf course, etc., the Government encountered demands such as no demolition or relocation, local relocation, etc. Moreover, the Government had to face problems such as compensation, identification of other sites for relocation and so on. Reclamation was thus an effective means to increase land supply in the long run. He hoped that Councillors would adopt a rational attitude in discussing the issue concerned and those Councillors opposing the project should consider whether they could face the next generation in a clear conscience. Furthermore, he pointed out that there had previously been a considerable amount of opposition when the Mass Transit Railway was to be constructed. Nevertheless, the importance of the railway facilities to the society had now been fully realised.
- (r) The Chairman was pleased to note that the Government was launching the Lift Modernisation Subsidy Scheme to subsidise the modernisation of aged lifts in eligible buildings. However, he was concerned that

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lifts in plenty of aged buildings in the Eastern District had over 40 years of service. He suggested that the scheme should provide subsidy for owners in need to conduct inspection, repair and replacement of aged lifts so as to safeguard public safety. Besides, regarding the proposal to adjust the tolls of the three road harbour crossings, he suggested the Government consider not to introduce a substantial increase in the tolls of Cross Harbour Tunnel and Eastern Harbour Crossing. In addition, he supported the project of Lantau Tomorrow Vision. He said that a number of sites in the Eastern District, such as the Eastern Law Courts Building, several housing estates in the vicinity of King's Road, Aldrich Garden, etc., were constructed on reclaimed land. It would be necessary to commence the project in the interests of the next generation and future development.

10. The Chairman concluded that the Secretariat would relay Councillors' views on the Policy Address to the Office of the Chief Executive for reference. If Councillors had any other views, they were welcome to submit the views to the Office of the Chief Executive in writing.

IV. Information Items

Chairman's Report on the Discussion Items of the Regular Meeting

11. The Chairman reported that the discussion items had been set out in the report of the Chairman/Vice-chairman earlier on for Councillors' reference. The regular meeting for November 2018 was scheduled on 15 November. Councillors might forward their enquiries or views to the Chairman or Vice-chairman for relaying at the regular meeting in November.

V. Financial Position of Eastern District Council Funds

(EDC Paper No. 70/18)

12. The Secretary briefed the meeting on EDC Paper No. 70/18.

13. Councillors noted the financial position of the above funds.

VI. Report on the Fifth Meeting of District Facilities Management Committee

(EDC Paper No. 71/18)

14. Councillors noted the above report and endorsed the funding application under item X in the paper.

VII. Reports on the Fourth and the Fifth Meetings of Culture, Leisure, Community Building and Services Committee

(EDC Papers No. 72/18 and 73/18)

15. Councillors noted the above reports.

VIII. Reports on the Fourth and the Fifth Meetings of Traffic and Transport Committee

(EDC Papers No. 74/18 and 75/18)

16. Councillors noted the above reports.

IX. Report on the Fifth Meeting of Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee

(EDC Paper No. 76/18)

17. Councillors noted the above report.

X. Reports on the Special and the Fifth Meetings of Planning, Works and Housing Committee

(EDC Papers No. 77/18 and 78/18)

18. Councillors noted the above reports.

XI. Reports on the Fourth and the Fifth Meetings of Vetting Committee

(EDC Papers No. 79/18 and 80/18)

19. Councillors noted the above reports.

XII. Report on the Sixth Meeting of Task Group on Festival Celebrations

(EDC Paper No. 81/18)

20. Councillors noted the above report.

XIII. Report on the Fifth Meeting of Task Group on Publicity about the Work of Eastern District Council

(EDC Paper No. 82/18)

21. Councillors noted the above report.

XIV. Reports on the Second, the Third and the Fourth Meetings of the “2018 Eastern District Cultural Festival” Organizing Committee

(EDC Papers No. 83/18, 84/18 and 85/18)

22. Councillors noted the above reports and endorsed the delegation of authority under paragraph 4 in Paper No. 83/18.

XV. Report on the 227th Meeting of the Eastern District Management Committee

(EDC Paper No. 86/18)

23. Councillors noted the above report. Mr Eddie TING thanked District Officer (Eastern) and District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Eastern) for the mosquito disinfestation work carried out in the Eastern District. Mr Andrew CHIU thanked District Officer (Eastern) for proactively coordinating with the departments concerned after the passage of typhoon Mangkhut for prompt implementation of remedial work. He also hoped that anti-mosquito work would continue to be enhanced in winter months.

XVI. Any Other Business

(A) 2019 Meeting Schedules of Eastern District Council and its Committees

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24. The Chairman said that the meeting schedules of 2019 had been listed in the tabled document. In addition, as the District Council Election would be held in 2019, dates of meetings in September might have to be revised in response to the suspension of operation of District Councils.

25. Councillors noted and approved the 2019 meeting schedules.

(B) Duty Visit to Qingdao

26. 2 Councillors expressed their views with enquiries as summarised below:

(a) Mr Howard CHEUNG enquired about the arrangements and progress of preparing the report of the duty visit.

(b) Mr LEE Chun-keung enquired whether the duty visit report would be submitted for Councillors' perusal before being uploaded to the website of Eastern District Council.

27. The Secretary added that the delegation of EDC paid a duty visit to Qingdao from 13 to 17 August. In accordance with the arrangements as endorsed in EDC Paper No. 2/18, the delegation had appointed Mr HUNG Lin-cham and Mr Eddie TING to draft the duty visit report. The report would be circulated among Councillors of EDC later on. After circulation, the report would then be uploaded to the website of EDC for public access.

(Post-meeting note: The duty visit report was circulated among Councillors by the Secretariat on 9 November 2018. It was uploaded to the website of EDC for public access on 16 November 2018.)

XVII. Date of the Next Meeting

28. The meeting adjourned at 4:20 pm. The Sixteenth EDC Meeting would be held at 2:30 pm on 18 December 2018 (Tuesday).

Eastern District Council Secretariat
December 2018