

## Minutes of the Eighteenth Meeting of the Eastern District Council

Date: 30 April 2019 (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 WONG Kwok-hing, BBS, MH	2:30	5:00
Mr KU Kwai-yiu	2:45	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	2:30	end of meeting
Mr SHIU Ka-fai	2:30	end of meeting
Mr HUNG Lin-cham, MH	2:30	end of meeting
Mr CHUI Chi-kin	2:30	end of meeting
Mr CHEUNG Kwok-cheong, Howard	2:30	end of meeting
Mr LEUNG Siu-sun, Patrick	2:30	end of meeting
Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung, David	2:30	end of meeting
Ms LEUNG Wing-man, Bonnie	2:35	end of meeting
Mr HUI Lam-hing	2:30	end of meeting
Mr HUI Ching-on	2:35	4:40
Mr KWOK Wai-keung, Aron, JP	2:30	3:10
Mr MAK Tak-ching	2:30	4:25
Ms CHIK Kit-ling, Elaine	2:30	end of meeting
Mr WONG Kin-pan, BBS, MH, JP (Chairman)	2:30	6:15
Mr WONG Kin-hing	2:30	4:30
Mr YEUNG Sze-chun	2:30	6:00
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	2:30	5:30

Mr CHENG Chi-sing	2:30	end of meeting
Mr CHENG Tat-hung	2:30	end of meeting
Mr LAI Chi-keong, Joseph	2:35	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

**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 DOVER Rupert Timothy Alan	District Commander (Eastern District), Hong Kong Police Force
Ms HUNG Wing-yan	Acting Police Community Relations Officer (Eastern District), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr TONG Ping-tat	Senior Property Service Manager (Hong Kong Island), Housing Department
Mr MOK Ying-kit, Kenneth	Chief Transport Officer/Hong Kong, Transport Department
Mr TSANG Wing-lok, Gabriel	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Eastern), Food and Environmental Hygiene 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

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

Ms CHAN Mable, JP	Commissioner for Transport, Transport Department
Mr LAW Hing-sun, Michael	Assistant Commissioner /Urban, Transport Department
Mr LAI Hiu-ping, Rex	Acting Senior Engineer/ Eastern and General, Transport Department
Ms LAU Lee-kwan, Vivian, JP	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr TSAI Yu-sing, Eric	Assistant Director (Operations) 1, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

**Secretary**

Ms NG Yan-mei, Monie	Senior Executive Officer (District Council), Eastern District Office
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**Opening Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed Members and government representatives to the meeting, particularly Ms Mable CHAN, JP, Commissioner for Transport (C for T), Mr Michael LAW, Assistant Commissioner/Urban, Mr Kenneth MOK, Chief Transport Officer/Hong Kong, and Mr Rex LAI, Acting Senior Engineer/Eastern and General of the Transport Department (TD). He extended his welcome to Ms HUNG Wing-yan, Acting Police Community Relations Officer (Eastern District) of the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) who attended the meeting on behalf of Ms LAU Tak-yi, Chief Inspector, and Mr TONG Ping-tat, Senior Property Service Manager (Hong Kong Island) of the Housing Department (HD) who attended the meeting on behalf of Mrs Helen CHEUNG, Chief Manager / Management (Hong Kong Island and Islands). As Mr LUK Chi-kwong, Chief Leisure Manager (Hong Kong East) of the Leisure and Culture Services Department (LCSD) could not attend the meeting, Ms TAM Shiu-mei, District Leisure Manager (Eastern) would respond to enquiries on his behalf.

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

**I. Confirmation of the Draft Minutes of the Seventeenth Eastern District Council Meeting**

3. The above draft minutes were confirmed without amendments.

**II. Commissioner for Transport to Meet with Eastern District Council Members**

4. Ms Mable CHAN, JP, C for T, briefed Members on the work of the TD.
5. 30 Members expressed their views and raised enquiries regarding the work of the TD as summarised below:
- (a) Mr KUNG Pak-cheung urged the TD to expeditiously address the problem of traffic congestion in Wan Tsui area during the Ching Ming and Chung Yeung Festivals. He said that earlier on, even during days on which the HKPF had not implemented special road closures and diversions, many drove for grave sweeping and caused traffic congestion up to the old bus depot and Heng Fa Chuen respectively. He hoped that the TD would expeditiously address the abovementioned problem.
  - (b) Mr Frankie LO thanked the TD for its work in Eastern District. He expressed concern over the severe congestion of the right-turn traffic from King's Road westbound to Shell Street and then via Merlin Street to Electric Road due to the large number of vehicles parked along Merlin Street. He hoped that the TD would adopt improvement measures in the vicinity of Shell Street and Merlin Street so that the vehicle and tram traffic of King's Road westbound and eastbound would not be obstructed. Besides, he pointed out that there was frequent parking and unloading at the front and rear road sections of the bus stop opposite to Seven Seas Shopping Centre. He hoped that the TD and the HKPF would deal with the situation and take prosecution actions against illegal practices, if any.
  - (c) Mr NGAN Chun-lim expressed concern over the shortage of car park in Eastern District. He opined that the shortage would worsen the

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problem of illegal parking. Therefore, he was pleased to note that the TD would implement improvement measures. He said that a number of temporary car parks in Eastern District had been developed into major infrastructure projects. The decrease in the number of car parks had led to more severe shortage of parking spaces. He hoped that the TD would give special attention to the problem and facilitate improvement accordingly.

- (d) Mr Joseph LAI thanked the TD and representatives from bus companies for a site inspection at the bus stop in Hing Wah (II) Estate with him earlier on. He said that as a number of bus routes called at the bus stop, including route nos. 780, 8X and 19 of Citybus Limited (Citybus) and route nos. 82 and 8H of New World First Bus Services Limited (NWFB), wheelchair users encountered difficulty in passing by the bus stop during peak hours due to the large number of waiting passengers. He said that on the day of the site inspection, consensus had been reached with the TD and the bus companies that an additional bus stop would be set up in the road section ahead of the current bus stop for the diversion of passengers waiting for the abovementioned bus routes. He hoped that the improvement measures would be implemented and commissioned as soon as possible. Moreover, he urged the bus company to improve the problem of delayed trips of route no. 81 as it was the only bus route that called at bus stops within Hing Wah (II) Estate. Furthermore, he said that residents of Fung Wah Estate and King Tsui Court, which were locations at a higher terrain over Chai Wan West, hoped that the TD would introduce an additional green minibus (GMB) route to Heng Fa Chuen and Siu Sai Wan.
- (e) Mr CHENG Tat-hung thanked the TD for its work and commended the TD for its provision of all necessary documents. He welcomed the proposal for intelligent signalised junctions. However, as the pilot scheme would not end until 2021, he suggested that the TD first consider installing green countdown devices in major road sections in North Point to facilitate the elderly for crossing the roads. Besides, he expressed support for the proposal for cylinder-vertical-lifting smart car parks and requested the TD to provide separate documents to explain to the EDC about the pros and cons of the design later on. Besides, regarding the traffic accident which occurred on Cheung Hong Street in North Point, he hoped that the TD would make reference to the

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measures implemented by other countries and introduce the relevant measures to Hong Kong in order to prevent drivers from driving in an excessively high speed on steep roads and to safeguard pedestrian safety. Lastly, he pointed out that Kowloon Motor Bus (1933) Limited (KMB) had yet to share and exchange data with NWFB and Citybus. He urged the TD to co-ordinate accordingly so that the public could check the real-time arrival information for jointly operated bus routes using the smart phone application of CitybusNWFB during KMB's service hours.

- (f) Mr CHENG Chi-sing commended the TD and expressed appreciation for the efforts and co-operation of the TD staff over the years. He was pleased to see that the works of additional parking spaces for motorcycles and private cars on Marble Road would be completed in the second quarter of 2020. He also noted that the TD had recently provided 17 additional parking spaces for motorcycles near the entrance of North Point Fire Station and would provide additional parking spaces at other venues successively. He opined that the measures could effectively alleviate the illegal parking problem of motorcycles. Besides, he hoped that the TD would consider installing pedestrian signal facilities at the junction of the left-turn traffic from King's Road to Model Lane in order to safeguard pedestrian safety.
- (g) Mr HUI Lam-hing said that residents of housing estates in the vicinity of Holy Cross Path had to take the stairs for access to other areas and the elderly suffered inconvenience in particular. He urged the TD to provide barrier-free access along Holy Cross Path as soon as possible. In addition, he was pleased to note that the TD would provide additional parking spaces for motorcycles on Yiu Hing Road near Yiu Tung Estate. Nevertheless, he pointed out that Hing Tung Estate was abounded with winding roads and that a number of private cars and motorcycles were parked along the roadside or hillside, giving rise to potential dangers. Therefore, he urged the TD to provide additional parking spaces on Yiu Hing Road near Hing Tung Estate. Besides, he relayed the residents' wish for advancing the service hour of bus Route No. 606 so that students could travel to schools in Siu Sai Wan using this route.
- (h) Mr MAK Tak-ching expressed concern over the problem of delays, lost trips and stop skipping of buses. He took route No. 720 as an example and pointed out that the TD staff had conducted a site inspection with

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him and Mr Patrick WONG. Apart from unstable frequency, there had also been stop skipping as the buses were already fully loaded. Although the TD and the bus company had adopted corresponding measures and improvement plans, those measures turned out to be short-lived. He urged the TD to address the bus routes and related traffic problems in the long run. Besides, he also voiced his concern about whether bus captains had sufficient rest time. He said that the report from the Independent Review Committee had suggested the TD to abolish the guidelines which allow bus captains to take the 14-hour split-shift. He enquired about the number of additional bus captains to be employed by the bus companies and the proportion of part-time bus captains among those on the 14-hour split-shift upon the abolishment of the guidelines.

- (i) Ms Elaine CHIK commended the TD for its proactive attitude in handling the traffic problems in Eastern District. She said that Siu Sai Wan residents had keen demand for parking spaces. However, the TD had no plan to provide additional parking spaces in the area. She suggested that the TD actively consider providing additional parking spaces for motorcycles at locations such as the junction of Hiu Tsui Street and also consider increasing the ratio of parking spaces for motorcycles. Besides, as there was no railway service to Siu Sai Wan, she hoped that the TD would enhance and improve the bus and GMB services, for example, by introducing bus or GMB routes to and from Southern District, by advancing the service hour of GMB Route No. 47E, and so on and so forth.
- (j) Mr YEUNG Sze-chun opined that parking spaces were in severe shortage and it was mainly due to the Government's neglect of reserving space for car park facilities in the planning and design of the temporary car park sites resumed for development. As a result, the supply of car park spaces would become more and more critical. He hoped that the TD would facilitate proactive planning accordingly.
- (k) Mr Andrew CHIU urged the TD to immediately tighten the arrangement of application for a Hong Kong driving licence directly issued without test by mainlanders so as to safeguard the road safety in Hong Kong and also the recognition of Hong Kong's driving licences. He said that from 2007 to 2018, 62.8% out of the 486 000 Hong Kong driving

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licenses directly issued without test were held by holders of mainland driving licences. As for last year, the percentage of holders of mainland driving licences was even over 77% out of the 49 000 driving licenses directly issued without test. In parallel, the number of traffic accidents involving holders of driving licences directly issued without test rose from 463 in 2016 to 623 in 2018, marking an increase by 35%. Besides, he noticed that a number of areas, including the vicinity of Taikoo Shing, had been facing the problems of red light jumping by vehicles, illegal parking, etc. He urged the TD to expeditiously tighten the related policies. In addition, he said that he had made a request to the Commissioner of Police for introducing new technologies in order to enhance the effectiveness of issuing summons against illegal parking and he noted that the HKPF would carry out a pilot scheme on issuing electronic fixed penalty tickets (e-tickets) by scanning the two-dimensional barcodes (2D barcodes) on vehicle licences for the vehicle information starting from the third quarter of 2019. He hoped that the TD would enhance collaboration with the HKPF. Moreover, he expressed support for the expedition of the government policy of opening up big data regarding public transport. Lastly, he thanked the TD for proactively following up on the footpath widening works at Tai Yue Avenue to facilitate its smooth completion.

- (l) Mr LAU Hing-yeung welcomed the TD's study on automated parking systems for alleviating the serious illegal parking problem in Eastern District, such as in the vicinity of Chai Wan Road and Wan Tsui Road. He also hoped that the TD would actively explore the viability of increasing the number of parking spaces for large vehicles and school buses. In addition, he hoped that the TD would proactively consider providing bus services that would allow residents of Chai Wan and Siu Sai Wan to have direct access to West Kowloon Station and to Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Port. Besides, he thanked the TD for providing additional road markings at the section of Wan Tsui Road off the ground floor of Cheuk Wah House in Hing Wah (I) Estate and thus greatly reducing the risks of traffic accidents. Lastly, he said that the frequency of GMB route No. 20M and of bus route Nos. 780 and 8 had been low. He hoped that the TD would negotiate with the GMB operator and bus companies for enhancement.
  
- (m) Ms Bonnie LEUNG pointed out that the two prominent traffic problems



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in Kornhill area were, firstly the persistent lost trips of the four GMB routes to and from Kornhill, and secondly the traffic congestion at Hong On Street in lower and middle Kornhill caused by goods vehicles loading and unloading goods. She expressed great gratitude to the TD for its proactive assistance in mitigating the abovementioned problems. However, she said that the GMB operator had made no improvement despite having received three warning letters issued by the TD. She hoped that the TD would enhance the transparency of the fare increase mechanism, in particular whether service performance was one of the crucial criteria when the TD considered approving the fare increase of GMB routes. Besides, owing to the fact that GMBs had been the only means of transport serving Kornhill area without any competition, the GMB operator had thus been reluctant to introduce low-floor public light bus (PLB) as the price of a low-floor PLB doubled that of an ordinary PLB. Therefore, she hoped that the TD would provide subsidies for the GMB operator to introduce low-floor PLBs for the convenience of wheelchair-users and the elderly with impaired mobility.

- (n) Mr David LEUNG said that GMBs and buses were the major means of transport for Siu Sai Wan. The major bus routes serving the area were Route No. 788 connecting to Central, Route No. 789 to Admiralty and Route No. 8P to Wan Chai North. Buses of these routes would not call at the bus stop at Fullview Garden before 8:30 am every day. Despite his incessant demand for over a decade, the bus companies still had not responded to Fullview Garden residents' requests. He expressed recognition of the efforts of the TD's staff and their close collaboration with the Eastern District Council (EDC). Nevertheless, he felt helpless that the franchised bus companies had been unwilling to accept the views of the public and the EDC and that there had been frequent lost trips and delays. He urged the TD to actively handle and tackle the problems brought about by the franchised bus companies. Besides, regarding the widening works of the pedestrian crossing at Siu Sai Wan Road, he said that he had been negotiating the works with the TD for years. He hoped that the TD would complete the works as soon as possible.
- (o) Mr Patrick LEUNG said that despite his incessant demand made to the Mass Transit Railway Corporation Limited (MTRCL) for over a decade about retrofitting a lift connecting to the street level at Kornhill Road

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exit of MTR Tai Koo Station, MTRCL had failed in giving a prompt reply. He hoped that the TD would request the Transport and Housing Bureau (THB) to assist in persuading MTRCL accordingly. Besides, he noted that the Government would shoulder part of the works cost for erecting bus shelters while the remaining costs would be shouldered by the bus companies. He hoped that the TD would request the bus companies to make best endeavours to install a real-time bus service information display panel at the new bus stop at Kornhill Road for the public's convenience. Lastly, he expressed welcome to the advice of the TD's proposal for installing concrete barriers on King's Road. He hoped that the TD would conduct extensive local consultation.

(p) Mr Howard CHEUNG thanked the TD for providing 10 additional parking spaces for motorcycles off Buddhist Chung Wah Kornhill Primary School near the junction of Hong Yue Street and Greig Road as well as for designating a 24-hour prohibited zone nearby, and thus largely alleviate the problem of dangerous driving caused by illegal parking. Besides, he pointed out that illegal parking was very serious in the vicinity of Greig Crescent, particularly the parking of vehicles on pavements by individual drivers after 11:00 pm. Although he had called the police, no police officers had arrived to follow up. He urged the TD and the HKPF to enhance measures against illegal parking at Greig Crescent. Regarding the frequent lost trips of the four GMB routes to and from Kornhill, he said that the GMB operator had often been attributing it to shortage of drivers. Nevertheless, he was of the view that the TD had not strengthened its monitoring on the operation of the GMB operator. He urged the TD to actively follow up on the situation.

(q) Mr CHUI Chi-kin said that illegal parking in Chai Wan and Siu Sai Wan area was very serious and the major cause was the growth rate of vehicles had exceeded that of car parks. Although the TD had provided over two hundred additional parking spaces, illegal parking had not been alleviated. He also pointed out that the Bus Route Planning Programme 2019-2020 of Eastern District failed to take into account the views of Chai Wan and Siu Sai Wan residents. He hoped that the TD would review the Bus Route Planning Programme. Lastly, he said that Kam Yuen Lane had remained a traffic accident black spot over the years with frequent traffic accidents. He urged the TD to

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expeditiously address the problem.

- (r) Mr SHIU Ka-fai expressed gratitude to the TD that it has provided a pedestrian crossing off Shu Yan University on Braemar Hill and that measures would also be implemented against traffic congestion near Chinese International School in the fourth quarter of this year with a view to addressing the problem. Besides, he urged the TD to commence the works of Braemar Hill Pedestrian Link as soon as possible. Lastly, he expressed support for the TD's implementation of installing real-time bus service information display panels at bus stops. He also pointed out that there were frequent lost trips for bus route Nos. 25A, 27 and 85 and the bus companies had always been using shortage of manpower as a pretext. He opined that the installation of real-time bus service information display panels would allow passengers to monitor the situation of lost trips.
  
- (s) Mr George LAM expressed concern over the problem of lost trips of GMBs and he noticed that GMB drivers took frequent sick leaves because of ageing. He said that although seating capacity on some GMBs had increased from 16 to 19, the increase was a drop in the bucket. He urged the TD to study the option of increasing the seating capacity on GMBs to 24 or 32 to meet passengers' needs.
  
- (t) Mr LAM Sum-lim hoped that the TD would facilitate earlier completion of widening the pavement of Shau Kei Wan (SKW) Main Street East and provision of additional parking spaces so as to tie in with the car park project on Tung Hei Road. He explained that there were four elderly homes along SKW Main Street East but many vehicles parked along both sides of the road, obstructing the rescue services provided by the fire appliances and ambulances. Therefore, he urged the TD to negotiate with the Highways Department (HD) for early completion of the works at SKW Main Street East. Besides, he enquired about whether the new generation of parking meters could identify the vehicles with parking time expired but without payment of parking fee and issue e-tickets against the vehicles automatically. Lastly, he voiced concern over the problem of lost trips of GMBs. Citing the examples of GMB Route Nos. 6 and 66A to Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital, he said that the frequencies of the GMBs could not meet the demand of commuters or hospital visitors during peak hours.

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He hoped that the TD would give special attention to the situation.

- (u) Mr Dominic WONG noted that the public transport strategies in Hong Kong had failed to take into account the needs of residents living uphill. He said that despite the fact that Yiu Tung area was an ageing community, many elderly residents living uphill had to take buses and GMBs to connect to railway service. He hoped that the TD would make adjustments on ancillary transport facilities and the length of service hours in response to ageing population. Besides, he expressed concern over the TD's frequent posting arrangements. He said that he had made suggestion for improving the road crossing facilities at Nam On Lane in 2016. Although the works had now been completed, due to the TD's frequent posting arrangements, he had to explain the suggestion to new staff members again each time. He asked the TD to give an account for the frequent posting arrangements.
  
- (v) Mr Patrick WONG commended the efforts of the TD staff. He said that during the initial period of introducing bus route No. 720X, the bus company had redeployed buses from Route No. 720 to provide service. However, bus route No. 720X became fully loaded when it reached the bus stop at Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre or at Tai Hong Street. The TD's frontline staff and he had been discussing the issue with the bus company, which only deployed bus regulators to divert passengers flow. Nevertheless, he noted that this short-term measure had not been implemented every day. In the long run, increasing frequency is the only solution to meet passengers' demand. He thanked the TD's frontline staff for their efforts and assistance. He also urged the TD's senior management to enhance the monitoring of franchised bus companies for improving the overall quality of bus services. Besides, regarding the service disruption of four MTR lines and the collision incident of MTR trains, he asked the TD whether the fines were calculated in terms of one railway line or four lines under the Service Performance Arrangement of fare adjustment mechanism and whether the Government would deploy the fines for enhancing railway services. He also hoped that MTRCL would provide fare concessions on weekdays rather than weekends.
  
- (w) Mr WONG Kwok-hing expressed welcome to the proposals of Universal Accessibility Programme (UA Programme) about retrofitting

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lifts at Siu Sai Wan Bus Terminus and widening the pedestrian crossing at Siu Sai Wan Road. He asked the TD about the works schedule. Besides, he said that it had always been the Government's policy that railway served as the backbone of the public transport system, but no railway services had been extended to Siu Sai Wan at present. He said that during the incumbent Chief Executive's election campaign, she had pledged to him to follow up on the railway system connecting Siu Sai Wan to Tseung Kwan O if she had been elected the Chief Executive. Nevertheless, the proposal had not been implemented yet. He hoped that the TD would take follow-up actions.

- (x) Mr KU Kwai-yiu noted that the TD would provide 9 additional parking spaces for motorcycles at Tsui Wan Street. However, he said that around 30 to 40 motorcycles were currently illegally parked at Tsui Wan Street. He hoped that the TD would provide more parking spaces for motorcycles at the location. He suggested that the TD should either replace the parking meters at Tsui Wan Street with smart parking meters or extend each parking session from half an hour to two hours so that drivers would not need to frequently go back and forth to the parking meters to feed the meters. In addition, he was supportive of constructing smart car parks for addressing the illegal parking problem in the vicinity of Chai Wan Road, Shing Tai Road, Wing Tai Road and Tsui Wan Street. Besides, he said that the bus Route Nos. 8X and 19 overlapped. He suggested the TD to abolish either one of these routes for redeploying resources to routes which were in greater demand such as route Nos. 118P and 788.
  
- (y) Mr Stanley HO recognised efforts of the TD staff. He said that illegal parking in Heng Fa Chuen was very serious and urged the TD to expedite the study on and implementation of smart car park projects. In addition, he said that in Heng Fa Chuen area, two government sites currently used as temporary car parks would be resumed for development. He hoped that when the TD determined the number of smart parking meters, a corresponding number of parking spaces would be reserved for alleviating the shortage of parking spaces in Heng Fa Chuen. Besides, he reflected that red light jumping by large vehicles or private cars was common at night at the traffic light outside No. 17, Shing Tai Road. Although he had informed the HKPF and the TD for follow-up and Internet Protocol (IP) cameras had been installed at the

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location, he opined that the problem had not been addressed. He hoped that the TD would explore effective solutions.

- (z) Ms LI Chun-chau said that there was a serious shortage of bus services in Lok Hong area, reflecting that the area was currently served by bus route No. 81 and route No. 8 only and that lost trips were frequent. In addition, she had always demanded for either bus route No. 19 or route No. 8X to call at Greenwood Terrace Bus Terminus. However, the bus companies failed to respond to residents' requests over the years. She urged the TD to address the serious inadequacy of bus services in Lok Hong area. Besides, she said that Lok Hong residents had to take more than a hundred steps of stairs for public transport on Chai Wan Road. She requested the TD to retrofit lifts for Lok Hong residents under the UA Programme. Regarding illegal parking, she said that despite the site inspection conducted by her with the TD, no additional parking spaces for private cars and motorcycles had been provided so far. She had also suggested the provision of additional yellow box markings or double yellow lines at certain locations but her suggestion had not been adopted by the TD. She urged the TD to attach great importance to the above problems.
- (aa) Mr LEE Chun-keung pointed out that the TD was facing three major problems, namely, illegal parking and inadequacy of parking spaces, lost trips of buses and GMB, and ageing of taxi and GMB drivers. He hoped that "smart mobility" would address the problems. Also, he opined that Hong Kong's "smart mobility" was less advanced than that of other countries. Therefore, he suggested that the TD should draw on overseas experiences to add more functions, such as enquiry about car park availability, enquiry about bus frequency, vehicle licences with 2D barcodes, and so on to the smart phone application and to adopt technologies such as Global Positioning System and Radio Frequency Identification System. In addition, he fully supported the implementation of Electronic Road Pricing Pilot Scheme and "congestion charging" in Central and its neighbouring areas under the "user pays" principle. Regarding the Automatic Toll Collection System for road tunnels, he reflected the hope of legal hire car drivers that the TD would provide additional collection modes such as stored value or value-added for the convenience of shift drivers in toll calculation. Besides, he understood that railway served as the

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backbone of the public transport system but ancillary transport facilities uphill should not be neglected. He urged the TD to expeditiously arrange for either bus route No. 19 or route No. 8X to call at Greenwood Terrace Bus Terminus and also for route No. 682 and route No. 694 to call at Wan Tsui Road. Lastly, he reflected that there was serious traffic congestion in the vicinity of Wan Tsui Road and Chai Wan Roundabout during the Ching Ming and Chung Yeung Festivals. He hoped that the TD would consider installing additional monitoring device and display panels at Island East Corridor eastbound to inform drivers of the traffic condition in Chai Wan.

- (bb) Ms CHOY So-yuk expressed support for “smart mobility” but opined that the TD had been slow in its implementation. She pointed out that the initiative was still at the study stage in Hong Kong while a number of mainland cities had implemented the initiative three to four years ago. Regarding intelligent signalised junctions, she shared that the device had been in use for a long time in Hangzhou to collect different information for addressing traffic congestion. She also said that there were no longer parking meters in the Mainland and parking fees were now paid through value-adding in a smart phone application. She said that she fully supported “smart mobility” but hoped that the TD would expedite the implementation.
- (cc) The Vice-chairman thanked the TD for its efforts. However, he said that the TD’s frontline staff might have failed to effectively monitor and urge bus companies and GMB operators to improve the situation of serious lost trips due to limited delegation of power. He hoped that the TD would delegate corresponding power to the staff in regular attendance of meetings or explore the feasibility of increasing penalties to enhance monitoring of bus companies and GMB operators. In addition, he said that when he returned from Lo Wu earlier on at half past eight in the evening and planned to travel to the Island side by taking bus route No. 110 at the bus stop at the Cross-Harbour Tunnel, it was only to find that the route provided service until a quarter past eight in the evening only. Therefore, he opined that the bus service failed to meet the public’s need. Besides, he hoped that the TD would give special attention to illegal parking and launch smart vehicle licences as soon as possible in order to address the problem.

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(dd) The Chairman said he fully supported “smart mobility” but hoped that the TD would expedite its implementation as Hong Kong was already falling behind other places. Besides, he opined that smart traffic facilities would be necessary for tackling traffic problems with the increasing number of vehicles. He commended the efforts of the TD staff. He was also very supportive of the TD’s construction of a cylinder-vertical-lifting smart car park in Chai Wan area and believed that it would help to alleviate parking space shortage. Nevertheless, the number of vehicles in Eastern District surpassed the fifty thousand parking spaces by a large extent. Therefore, he hoped that the TD would, in the policy level, explore the feasibility of incorporating provisions to require both government and private development projects to provide car park facilities for addressing the serious illegal parking in Eastern District.

6. Ms Mable CHAN, JP, C for T, thanked Members for their views. She responded to their views and enquiries as follows:

- (a) Apart from the work mentioned in the PowerPoint presentation, the TD would remain vigilant on and follow up on the traffic problems near King’s Road and Wan Tsui Estate during the Ching Ming and Chung Yeung Festivals and flexibly tackle them timely. Besides, the TD might have to take up part of the pavement or remove plants and planters in order to vacate space for providing additional parking spaces on roads or pavement where space was limited. The TD was also thankful for the Chairman’s suggestion on providing 38 additional parking spaces for private cars under the flyover at Tung Hei Road.
- (b) As land resources in Hong Kong were limited, it would be impossible for the Government to provide additional parking spaces continuously to catch up with the average vehicle growth by 3% per year, and it would be extremely challenging to provide additional parking spaces in limited space. The TD would adopt a “single site, multiple uses” and multi-pronged model to provide as many additional parking spaces as possible. The proposed Government Complex, which would also be a driver training and driving test venue, on Sheung Mau Street in Chai Wan was an example of the “single site, multiple uses” model. The TD was exploring the feasibility of constructing a cylinder-vertical-lifting smart car park next to the proposed Government Complex in the hope of



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encouraging private car parks, commercial buildings and even short-term tenancy car parks to adopt automated parking systems for effective use of space and provision of more parking spaces under the pilot scheme.

- (c) In the multi-pronged strategy, the TD would provide additional parking spaces for commercial vehicles, heavy goods vehicles, school buses, etc. through the use of the following eight measures:
  - (i) To provide additional metered parking spaces by better utilisation of spaces underneath footbridges/flyovers and roadside;
  - (ii) To collaborate with the Education Bureau (EDB) and request sponsoring bodies to open up school premises for parking of school buses, a measure that thirty-odd sponsoring bodies had agreed to participate up to this date;
  - (iii) To incorporate provisions in the tenancies of short-term tenancy car parks requiring operators to reserve parking spaces for commercial vehicles;
  - (iv) To discuss with the Lands Department (LandsD) whether the loading/unloading bays of commercial facilities, such as office buildings and shopping centres, could be opened up as parking spaces at night;
  - (v) To incorporate provisions in private property development projects requiring developers to provide more parking spaces in accordance with the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines (HKPSG);
  - (vi) Investigation and study on the demand for parking spaces for commercial vehicles in the 18 districts was underway to identify more locations for providing parking spaces for commercial vehicles;
  - (vii) To conduct a review on the HKPSG in light of the findings of the above study; and
  - (viii) To provide parking spaces in government's community facilities by adopting the "single site, multiple uses" model and to undertake study and pilot scheme on automated parking systems.
  
- (d) Regarding public transportation services, the TD had noticed the unstable service provision and lost trips in certain bus and GMB routes. As the monitoring body, the TD would strictly implement the

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mechanism for monitoring public transport operators in order to enhance public transport services. Besides, since the setting up of the Independent Review Committee on Hong Kong's Franchised Bus Service and the Working Group on the Enhancement of Safety of Franchised Buses, the TD had established closer ties with franchised bus operators through a series of hearings and standing meetings. The TD would take this opportunity to strengthen its role as a monitoring body. Regarding the bus and GMB service issue, in particular the services of the four GMB routes to and from Kornhill, the TD would keep the situation under close monitoring and take follow-up actions. If operators failed to meet the service requirements, the TD would issue appropriate advice and warnings.

- (e) Regarding increasing frequency or advancing and extending the service hours of buses, the TD would have to review the transport needs of residents in different areas in Eastern District as well as take into consideration whether the adjustments would give rise to serious traffic congestion and overlapping of resources in Eastern District, where 59 bus routes and 56 cross-harbour routes run via major trunk roads. Besides, the TD hoped that Members would show support upon its submission of the Bus Route Planning Programme in future and would assist the TD in explaining the Programme content to local residents. When resource allocation or bus route rationalisation by the TD was required, it was hoped that the TD staff were to be given room for exploring feasibility. Regarding Members' requests for the introduction of bus services to High Speed Rail station and to Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Port, and for the service hour extension of bus route No. 110, the TD would study and follow up on the requests at the same time. Regarding the request for bus route Nos. 788, 789 and 8P to call at the bus stop at Fullview Garden at an earlier hour, apart from the bus companies' consideration of resource allocation, the TD would also have to take into consideration whether the bus bay could accommodate a number of bus routes, whether queuing passengers would lead to pedestrian congestion, and whether works would be required, etc.
- (f) Regarding "smart mobility", the TD would fully co-operate with the HKPF in law enforcement and would implement the issuance of e-tickets by scanning the 2D barcodes on vehicle licences. Besides, the

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TD would make best endeavours to expedite the implementation of different initiatives under “smart mobility”. For instance, the TD would install smart parking meters and provide additional parking spaces in different districts starting from the first half of next year to meet community needs.

- (g) Regarding the implementation of the Automatic Toll Collection System for road tunnels, the installation works at Tseung Kwan O - Lam Tin Tunnel was currently underway and was expected to commission by the end of 2021. Starting from the second half of next year, the TD would conduct publicity and notify drivers that they would receive in-vehicle units when applying for issuance or renewal of vehicle licences and driving licences.
- (h) Regarding Members’ views on MTRCL, the TD would relay them to the THB and take follow-up actions. The tendering exercise for the lift retrofitting works at Siu Sai Wan Bus Terminus (HyD Structure No. HF138) was in progress. The tender assessment was expected to be completed in July or August this year. The pedestrian crossing widening works at Siu Sai Wan Road would be commenced in the first quarter of 2020. As to the suggestion about constructing a new railway line connecting Siu Sai Wan to Tseung Kwan O, the TD would relay it to the THB for consideration and follow-up. With regard to the review on the working hours of franchised bus captains, the TD would complete the review within one year after the full implementation of the guidelines in mid-2019. Regarding the arrangement of the application for direct issue of driving licences without test by mainlanders, the TD would take follow-up actions and provide the EDC with a written reply after the meeting as policy issues were involved.

7. The Chairman thanked Ms Mable CHAN, JP, C for T and her colleagues for attending the meeting. He also asked them to note Members’ views.

### **III. Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene to Meet with Eastern District Council Members**

8. The Chairman welcomed Ms Vivian LAU, JP, Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (DFEH), Mr Eric TSAI, Assistant Director (Operations) 1, and Mr Gabriel TSANG, District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Eastern)

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of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) to the EDC meeting.

9. Ms Vivian LAU, JP, DFEH, briefed Members on the work of the FEHD.

10. 26 Members expressed their views and enquiries on FEHD's work as summarised below:

- (a) Mr Eddie TING commended FEHD colleagues and recognised their efforts. He indicated that low salary, limited benefits and heavy workload had resulted in unsatisfactory performances of outsourced workers, and hoped the FEHD would deploy additional human resources at district level and enhance the outsourcing mechanism. In addition, he said that the environmental hygiene outside some buildings was affected by the poor hygiene conditions of private streets (including rear lanes of the buildings) in Eastern District, and hoped the FEHD would carry out cleansing work in some private streets with policy support.
- (b) Mr Dominic WONG thanked FEHD colleagues for their prompt response to environmental hygiene issues in the district. He was pleased by the future increase in staff establishment of Eastern District but worried that it might be insufficient. He also indicated the prevalence of environmental hygiene issues at night and the situation was the worst in rear lanes or hygiene blackspots as shops chose to fly-tip in streets at night for convenience and morning commuters would find the streets dirty. He urged the FEHD to explore solutions to fly-tipping at night.
- (c) Mr Patrick WONG thanked the FEHD for its seamless co-operation with EDC Members and the provision of appropriate assistance in issues such as rodent, mosquito and biting midge, as well as facilitation of cleansing at blackspots mentioned by Members in respect of street cleansing. In addition, he remarked that complaints received by Joint Offices for Investigation of Water Seepage Complaints (JO) were not handled on a joint basis. Instead, cases relating to drainage problem would be handled by the FEHD first, and then referred to the Buildings Department (BD) and further to the Water Supplies Department if the seepage source could not be identified by the preceding department(s). Nevertheless, the seepage source of most cases remained unidentified

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at the end. The EDC had previously discussed the issue and suggested the introduction of advanced technologies, such as infrared device, and the FEHD and the BD carry out joint operations at the preliminary stage, so as to shorten the processing time for handling complaints and minimise the impact on the occupants. He also urged the FEHD to rationalise the workflow of JO.

- (d) Mr KU Kwai-yiu opined that in spite of serious rodent infestation in Chai Wan area, the FEHD held on to the use of rodenticides without seeking other rodent control alternatives. He suggested the FEHD draw reference from the practices in neighbouring regions. In addition, he noted that the personal belongings (e.g. backpacks) of outsourced cleansing workers were hung on handcarts at work as lockers were not provided, and urged the FEHD to follow up in this regard. He also indicated that the public area at Walton Estate was often occupied by stall operators despite repeated inspections and advice by FEHD colleagues. In light of this, he hoped more power would be delegated to the district frontline staff for adopting measures such as seizure of shop property, to achieve deterrent effect.
- (e) Mr Stanley HO remarked that as a result of higher public aspirations for environmental hygiene nowadays, the even heavier workload of frontline staff and the extensive area requiring cleansing services put a strain on the work of frontline staff, particularly after typhoon. He hoped the FEHD would increase manpower to ease the pressure on frontline staff and further improve environmental hygiene. In addition, he noted that there were often roadside brokers of used wine bottles and second-hand compact discs, etc. in Chai Wan and Heng Fa Chuen. He understood that the relevant laws might not serve to confer power on frontline staff for seizure of the property and asked the FEHD about other solutions.
- (f) Ms LI Chun-chau paid tribute to the outstanding performance of FEHD's frontline staff. Nevertheless, she urged the DFEH for interdepartmental co-ordination against the serious prolonged occupation of pavement in the vicinity of Lee Chung Street by recyclers which remained unimproved. In addition, in light of the serious environmental hygiene problems in some private housing estates, she enquired about any laws regulating the hygiene conditions of private

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premises. Lastly, she hoped the FEHD would provide frontline staff with suitable protective gear and tools to strengthen the support to them and protect their safety.

- (g) Mr LEE Chun-keung stated the ten major issues of Tsui Tak area, namely: placement of goods on pavements and carriageways by shops, blocked pavements and carriageways by corrugated papers and foam boxes, fly-tipping, blocked footbridges by promotional easy-mount frames, obstructions by itinerant hawkers, rodent infestation, mosquito breeding, biting midges, cleanliness of public toilets, and water seepage. He was of the view that although the efforts of the FEHD in addressing the issues were bearing fruits, the root of the problems lay in the lack of self-discipline of some shops and persons concerned. Therefore, he hoped the FEHD could discuss with the Food and Health Bureau (FHB) about tightening the current mechanism and adopt measures such as introducing demerit points system for fruit shops, seizing corrugated papers that caused obstructions, etc. He also asked how the FEHD address issues such as obstructions by itinerant hawkers, cleanliness of public toilets, water seepage, rodent infestation, etc.
- (h) Ms CHOY So-yuk opined that it was not until the receipt of complaints that the hygiene blackspots in the district were cleansed. She had no idea whether it was caused by unmotivated frontline cleansing workers or ineffective supervision by FEHD colleagues, and hoped the FEHD would rectify the cause of the aforementioned issue. Besides, she pointed out that installation of IP cameras was effective in reducing fly-tipping. However, she remarked that in her recent discussion with the FEHD on the installation of IP cameras, the FEHD expressed great difficulty owing to the time-consuming process of viewing recorded footage. She understood the difficulties of the FEHD and was willing to offer assistance. She also suggested the FEHD view the relevant video clips only upon the receipt of reports.
- (i) Ms Bonnie LEUNG expressed her gratitude to FEHD colleagues, in particular the Pest Control Section, for their hard work. She indicated that infestation of vermin was common in Kornhill area, and despite the fact that Pest Control Section colleagues arrived at the site immediately after requests for assistance were received, the problem could not be eradicated if pest control works by the housing estates were poorly done.

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She also noticed that the pest control materials and technologies used by the FEHD, such as gel bait for cockroaches and rodent trapping devices driven by pressurized gas, were more effective than the methods adopted by private housing estates, and suggested the FEHD share the experiences and know-hows as well as enhance mutual co-operation with private housing estates to eradicate the pest problem.

- (j) Mr David LEUNG said that the JO was ineffective and failed to identify the seepage source of many cases despite having been established for many years, and asked about the FEHD's progress in employing infrared or microwave tests for the identification of seepage source. Also, he indicated that the joint operation by the FEHD and the EDO was merely a momentary solution to the serious illegal extension of business by shops. He suggested the FEHD review and revise the existing legislation for an effective solution to the problem. Lastly, according to the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), FEHD officers were responsible for enforcement actions on feeding of wild pigs other than in country park areas. As such, he urged the FEHD to monitor the feeding of wild pigs.
  
- (k) Mr Patrick LEUNG thanked the FEHD for its continued assistance in dealing with the display of easy-mount frames by telecommunication operators in Kornhill area and the disposal of construction waste. He expressed concern about unhygienic food conditions, such as parasites in food as discovered by the Centre for Food Safety (CFS), and hoped the CFS would conduct more random inspections and pay attention to the food sources. In addition, he urged the FEHD to ensure that outsourced workers were provided with necessary facilities and equipment as well as a proper place for meal and rest, and safeguard their rights to contract gratuities, etc. Besides, he also hoped the FEHD would enhance public education on not to throw cigarette butts and step up monitoring of street washing operation.
  
- (l) Mr Howard CHEUNG thanked FEHD colleagues for arriving at the site and carrying out cleansing works quickly after receiving his instant messages. He indicated that dog walkers often allowed his/her dog(s) to leave excreta in the vicinity of Nan Fung Sun Chuen and Greig Road without cleaning up, which affected morning commuters. The situation was particularly serious on holidays and their eves as well as

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at night. He hoped the FEHD would deploy more staff for enforcement during these days and periods. In addition, he remarked that the colleagues from the FEHD and BD failed to give him a reply as to the circumstances under which infrared or microwave tests would be employed for the identification of seepage source. He asked whether it was due to availability of resources and requested the FEHD to make more use of methods such as infrared or microwave tests.

- (m) Mr CHUI Chi-kin said that the rights of cleansing workers were previously discussed in the relevant committee meetings and the FEHD responded that no issues had been found in 177 surprise inspections at that time. However, he recently discovered that some cleansing workers had to cover themselves with garbage bags to keep off rain and asked whether it was due to insufficient provision from the FEHD or that the cleansing worker opted not to wear the raincoat provided. In addition, he agreed to FEHD's use of pressure washer surface cleaners for more effective street cleansing service and hoped that the FEHD would further procure the relevant equipment. Moreover, he asked the FEHD to give an account of the criticism from Office of the Ombudsman regarding its poor market management. Lastly, he urged the FEHD to follow up and propose improvement measures on the shop front extensions in Yee Fung Street, Chai Wan as the problem remained serious as well as the HD's failure to install rat guards in accordance with FEHD's guidelines.
- (n) Mr HUNG Lin-cham praised the FEHD colleagues for fostering seamless co-operation with Members in solving many district issues. He suggested the FEHD adopt measures such as increasing manpower, reviewing and revising relevant legislation, as well as installing additional IP cameras to improve and tackle issues such as rodent and mosquito infestation, water seepage, fly-tipping, dog fouling, and cleanliness and hygiene of streets.
- (o) Mr SHIU Ka-fai expressed his gratitude to FEHD colleagues for their hard work. As regards issues related to JO, he commented that unless individuals sought assistance from EDC Members to expedite the processing of cases, normally it took a long time for JO to follow up on cases. He urged the FEHD to increase manpower of JO and strengthen its liaison with relevant departments to facilitate the handling of seepage



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cases.

- (p) Mr LAM Sum-lim commended the efforts of FEHD colleagues. He indicated that street obstruction by illegal hawking was serious, especially in Kam Wa Street where stall operators made use of legal loopholes and resumed illegal hawking immediately after the departure of enforcement officers, putting a heavy burden on frontline officers. In addition, he commented on the serious water seepage in old areas and hoped the FEHD would enhance the functions of JO and expedite the work. Lastly, he suggested the FEHD replace all existing gully gratings with small openings to eliminate passages for rodents.
- (q) Mr HUI Lam-hing praised the efforts made by FEHD colleagues. He mentioned that the FEHD had taken immediate and regular follow-up actions on residents' complaints related to the issues at Shing On Street upon receiving his notification, which deserved his commendation.
- (r) Ms Elaine CHIK thanked FEHD colleagues for their assistance, particularly the follow-up works on improving environmental hygiene during the year in light of mosquito and rodent infestation after the hit of Typhoon Mangkhut. She hoped the FEHD would step up efforts to address mosquito and rodent infestation and issues related to wild pigs as summer was approaching. In addition, she opined that apart from seepage problem, hygiene issues in private housing estates were also very important. She hoped the FEHD would give advice or warning to the management companies of poorly-managed private housing estates to improve the living environment of residents.
- (s) Mr Andrew CHIU commended the FEHD colleagues for establishing a practical and persevering team and actively responding to Members' concerns about environmental hygiene. He understood that some areas in private housing estates were not managed by the FEHD, nevertheless, the FEHD colleagues still proactively provided pragmatic advice on rodent infestation to management companies and cleansing contractors. He hoped the FEHD would continue to encourage frontline staff to share experience with contractors of private housing estates, so as to improve the environmental hygiene of the private housing estates more effectively. In addition, he hoped the FEHD would step up fogging operations to kill mosquitos, deploy additional

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manpower for using pressure washer surface cleaners, deploy additional manpower for providing street cleansing services in Taikoo Shing, as well as work with the policy bureau for reviewing and rationalising the workflow of JO in order to shorten the handling time required for each case.

- (t) Mr LAU Hing-yeung praised FEHD colleagues for working closely with EDC Members. He hoped the FEHD would provide professional guidance on rodent and mosquito control technologies to the HD. In addition, he hoped the FEHD would enhance collaboration with other departments and stakeholders to step up inspections and cleansing services against the occasional accumulation of stagnant water and rubbish in the area between Wah Tai Mansion and Hing Wah Plaza to achieve better rodent and mosquito control results in the district.
- (u) Mr KUNG Pak-cheung praised FEHD colleagues, especially colleagues at Market Section for their great efforts in pipe maintenance works at the Chai Wan Market, and hoped the FEHD would continue to work with the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) to closely follow up on the works for completion within 3 months. In addition, he had conducted an on-site visit to the columbarium at Cape Collinson Road with contractors and noted that the construction works had been progressing well in the past 4 months without complaints. He hoped the extended columbarium would be commissioned in 2022.
- (v) Mr Joseph LAI praised FEHD colleagues for maintaining close contacts with EDC Members. He relayed the wish of stall operators in Yue Wan Market for an additional elevator to access the food stalls on 1/F. He indicated that the dilapidated elevator in a hidden location currently in use was insufficient to serve the huge elderly population. If the elevator had to undergo maintenance, there would be no elevator for use. In addition, he thanked the FEHD for providing rental deduction and waiver to stall operators in the Chai Wan Market. He hoped that a 25% or 50% rent reduction would be granted to the stall operators after the resumption of business as they would have no income in these 3 months. Lastly, he pointed out that the Kut Shing Street Cooked Food Market was dilapidated and without air-conditioning. Furthermore, as the stalls on the ground floor were small in size, stall operators could only place dining tables on pavements or at rear lanes, resulting in poor

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hygiene conditions. As such, he hoped the FEHD would enlarge the stall size and expedite the installation of air-conditioning systems.

- (w) Mr CHENG Tat-hung praised FEHD colleagues for working closely with EDC Members. He hoped the FEHD would increase the establishment of enforcement officers for conducting more surprise inspections and prosecution actions. In addition, he expressed concern about the congregation of feral pigeons at Tong Shui Road in North Point and urged the FEHD to collaborate with AFCD for an overall plan to address the feral pigeon problem. Lastly, he hoped the FEHD would review the guidelines on scavenger treatment as they had contributed to the overall recycling efforts of the community.
- (x) Mr CHENG Chi-sing praised FEHD colleagues, especially colleagues at Cleansing Section for arranging contractors to the site for follow-up actions immediately after receiving his instant messages, which deserved commendation. In addition, he stated that the hawker stalls at Healthy Street East were neither included in the \$120,000 surrender scheme for hawker licences nor the \$45,000 face-lifting of hawker stalls. He invited the FEHD to consider including all hawker stalls within the 18 districts throughout the territory in the \$120,000 surrender scheme for hawker licences, so that aged stall operators could enjoy their twilight years.
- (y) The Vice-chairman indicated that shop operators and staff of supermarkets always placed their goods on carriageways causing street obstruction. However, the legal loopholes made it difficult for the FEHD colleagues to take enforcement actions. As such, he asked the FEHD to amend the relevant legislation in order to enhance the effectiveness of law enforcement. In addition, he noted the adverse working environment of outsourced cleansing workers and suggested the FEHD provide appropriate facilities for toilet attendants when refurbishing public toilets, and requested the FEHD to ensure that outsourced workers would enjoy comprehensive contractual protection. Lastly, he hoped that more resources would be deployed for installing IP cameras to facilitate enforcement actions.
- (z) The Chairman demonstrated his support to the FEHD's deployment of additional resources and effective use of technologies, and hoped the

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FEHD would install more IP cameras in Eastern District to address the hygiene blackspots problem more effectively. He thanked FEHD colleagues for their commitment to addressing the breeding of *Aedes albopictus* and making Eastern District the district with the lowest Area Ovitrap Index for *Aedes albopictus* in Hong Kong. Lastly, he hoped more resources would be deployed to JO for strengthening the collaboration between FEHD and BD, enhancing the job stability of frontline officers and expediting the handling of seepage cases.

11. Ms Vivian LAU, JP, DFEH responded to Members' views and enquiries as follows:

- (a) As regards the hygiene issues of private streets and private lanes, the FEHD would, subject to the availability of resources, provide street cleansing services for private streets or private lanes with environmental hygiene issues which were accessible by the public. Currently, the FEHD provided street cleansing services for 20 private streets and 17 private lanes in Eastern District. Members could contact FEHD colleagues after the meeting if they considered it necessary to provide street cleansing services for certain private streets or private lanes. Besides, as poor hygiene conditions at private streets might lead to the spread of pests in public areas, the FEHD would follow up on the relevant environmental hygiene issues with the property management companies, if any, of private streets or private lanes.
- (b) As regards water seepage in buildings, in spite of the joint-office operation comprising staff of FEHD and BD, the handling of cases by JO was ineffective in the early days of its establishment due to the high turnover rate of contract staff. In light of the situation, the FEHD had converted most of the contract posts to civil service posts several years ago to enhance employee retention, and while some duties of the BD were taken up by its civil servant colleagues, most of the department's works were absorbed by consultant companies. The collaboration of the FEHD and the BD was strong and the Directors of both departments held regular meetings every year to review work effectiveness and future development direction. To improve the efficiency in handling cases, a special team with the participation of policy bureaux was formed by the two departments more than one year ago to monitor the whole operation and expedite the process. Measures including the use

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of a computerised system were adopted to follow up on the progress of cases. As regards the methods for testing water seepage, a consultancy study on the use of new technologies, such as infrared tests, microwave tests, for testing water seepage had been commissioned to review the effectiveness of the relevant tests and it would be completed within the coming 2 months. According to the preliminary view of the consultant company, infrared tests or microwave tests could not be effectively applied under circumstances where there was spalling of concrete ceiling, tile finishes on ceilings or blockage by pipes at the locations of water seepage. For such cases, the JO had to employ the conventional coloured-water tests. In the course of case handling, the JO might encounter uncooperative occupants who ignored the rectification request on the Nuisance Notice, and 20 cases had been brought to the court in the past year finally. Currently, the court accepted coloured-water test report as evidence beyond reasonable doubt, and there was no relevant case where infrared or microwave test report was used as evidence in court.

- (c) On the allocation of additional resources, the FEHD and BD had increased manpower and consultant fee in the past few years. A task force was also established to look into ways for improving the efficiency of the JO, including making reference to overseas experience, reviewing the workflow and procedure in handling cases, introducing technologies, etc. Preliminary results showed that overseas practices might be inapplicable to Hong Kong as overseas legislation stipulated that the occupant of the upper floor should be responsible for seepage in the lower floor unless there were evidences proving that he/she was not responsible for the problem, and it might be hard for Hong Kong people to accept the practice. The task force would report the latest situation to Members upon completion of the review.
- (d) As for the refurbishment of public toilets, the Financial Secretary had earmarked \$600 million for the refurbishment of major public toilets throughout the territory in the coming 5 years. According to initial estimation, around 240 public toilets, i.e. 30% of the city's total of 799 public toilets, would be refurbished at the first stage. Public toilets with high utilisation rate or at tourist spots would be prioritised taken into account the condition of the existing facilities and utilisation rate of the public toilets. As such, many public toilets in Eastern District

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would meet the selection criteria and the refurbishment works would commence successively in the next few years. The target of the works would be keeping the public toilets free of odour and stains, the floor dry and the facilities in good condition. The FEHD had held meetings with relevant departments (e.g. ArchSD, Electrical and Mechanical Services Department) and would increase manpower accordingly with a view to expedite the commencement of works.

- (e) As regards the working environment and contractual protection for outsourced workers, the FEHD strived to provide a better working environment for them. For example, when refurbishing public toilets, the FEHD would ensure that public toilets with toilet attendants were provided with facilities such as attendant rooms, reasonable rest area, lockers, changing rooms, drinking facilities, etc. For contractual protection, currently about 40% of the street cleansing services contracts were not awarded according to the “lowest bid wins” principle, and the Government would optimise the outsourcing mechanism in a comprehensive manner. In particular, from 1 April 2019 onwards, the weighting of scores for evaluating government tenders would be changed from 70% for the price aspect in the past to an equal weighting of 50% for both price and technical aspects, whereas the weighting of wage level of outsourced workers would be increased to at least 25% of the contract price, in the hope that contractors would be incentivised to offer better working conditions to outsourced workers under the new marking scheme. In addition, the Labour Department had announced the latest Standard Employment Contract for non-skilled workers in March, which provided that outsourced workers would be entitled to a contract gratuity equivalent to 6% of the annual salary upon expiry of the contract and the pay of 1.5 times the normal rate for work under typhoon signal no. 8 or above.
- (f) The FEHD kept in touch with the AFCD on issues related to feral pigeons and wild pigs. Although it was not an offence to feed feral pigeons and wild pigs in public place in accordance with the existing legislation in Hong Kong, the FEHD would carry out enforcement actions to tackle the environment hygiene issues brought by such acts. Currently, the FEHD had set up one dedicated enforcement team (DET) in each district and additional DETs would be set up this year. The DETs adopted flexitime arrangements and could carry out enforcement

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actions in plain clothes with the permission of the supervisor to enhance enforcement effectiveness. The FEHD hoped that the hygiene issues brought by the feeding of feral pigeons and wild pigs would be alleviated with the aforementioned measures.

- (g) As regards shop-front extension, the FEHD would relay the issues relating to the impact of legal loopholes on law enforcement to the relevant steering committees under the Home Affairs Department and jointly discuss effective solutions with relevant departments to address and tackle the problem of illegal street and road occupation by shop operators as soon as possible, so as to avoid causing inconvenience to the public and affecting road safety.
- (h) In respect of market, the tenants at Electric Road Market and Quarry Bay Market and Cooked Food Centre had previously indicated their willingness to work with the FEHD for the installation of air-conditioning systems, and the FEHD would continue to take follow-up actions. As regards Market Modernisation Programme, the FEHD would take into account factors such as geographical location, business viability, tenants' readiness, etc., in selecting several public markets as the first phase for fundamental overhaul with the pioneering project being Aberdeen Market. The FEHD expected to reach a consensus with tenants on aspects such as business cessation period, rental waiver, air-conditioning charges, other grants and overall ancillary facilities in the next few months, and had allocated additional resources for the recruitment of staff dedicated to the refurbishment and modernisation of markets.
- (i) The FEHD would continue to allocate resources to pest, mosquito and rodent prevention and control and step up communication and co-operation with housing estates in this regard. Also, the pilot joint-operation against rodent infestation launched by the FEHD and BD in two housing estates had achieved significant effect and would be extended to other housing estates. Furthermore, the FEHD would invite relevant stakeholders of the housing estates, for example Link Asset Management Limited for markets under its operation, to conduct anti-rodent and anti-mosquito operations.
- (j) As regards the installation of IP cameras, currently IP cameras were

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installed at 6 hygiene blackspots in Eastern District. Members could propose to FEHD colleagues blackspots for installation of IP cameras after the meeting, and the FEHD would endeavour to allocate resources to tie in with Members' proposal and it was expected that IP cameras would be installed at 300 blackspots throughout the territory within the next 2 years. However, due to the time-consuming procedure for viewing footage, the recording function of the IP cameras at some blackspots where environmental hygiene issues had been effectively addressed after the installation would be turned off to alleviate the workload of viewing footage. Artificial intelligence and other new technologies were also introduced to assist colleagues in identifying video clips of suspected fly-tipping from the footage for further follow-up actions.

- (k) The contractual sum for the existing contract for provision of cleansing services in Eastern District awarded 2 years ago amounted to \$125 million, and would be significantly increased to approximately \$220 million for the new contracts commencing in June 2019. The FEHD would also create an additional post of Chief Health Inspector in several larger districts, including Eastern District, bringing the total number of Chief Health Inspectors to 3. In addition, the FEHD would increase the number of outsourced cleansing workers from 440 at present to 580 in June in the hope that with an increase in manpower as well as the assistance and co-ordination of Members and various teams, a liveable, clean and hygienic environment would be provided for all residents in Eastern District.

12. The Chairman thanked Ms Vivian LAU, JP, DFEH and her colleagues for attending the meeting, and asked them to note Members' views.

### **IV. Eastern District Office 2019-20 Work Plan**

(EDC Paper No. 14/19)

- 13. District Officer (Eastern) briefed the meeting on Paper No. 14/19.
- 14. Members noted the work plan for this year.



**V. Discussion on the 2019-20 Budget**

15. The Chairman said that the 2019-20 Budget was announced on 27 February and copies had been sent to Members.

16. The Chairman said that as there was no representatives from Financial Secretary's Office (FSO) at the meeting to listen to Members' views, he suggested Members submit their views on the Budget in writing to the FSO directly or forward their views to the EDC Secretariat for passing to the FSO.

**VI. Information Items**

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

17. The Chairman reported that the discussion items had been set out in the report of the Chairman/Vice-chairman for Members' reference. The regular meeting for May 2019 had been changed from 16 May to 20 June. Members might forward their enquiries or views to the Chairman or Vice-chairman for relaying at the regular meeting in June.

**VII. Discussion of the Appropriation of the Eastern District Council Funds for 2019-20**

(EDC Paper No. 15/19)

18. The Chairman asked Members to declare their interests.

19. The Chairman declared that he was an Advisor of the Eastern District Recreation and Sports Advancement Association Limited, and invited the Vice-chairman to make a ruling. The Vice-chairman ruled that as the Chairman was in a nominal capacity in the organisation, the Chairman could take part in the discussion and decision-making of the appropriation, and continue to chair the meeting.

20. Members in attendance declared their interests as follows:

<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Interests in the Relevant Organisations</b>
WONG Kin-pan	Advisor, Eastern District Recreation and Sports Advancement Association Limited

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<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Interests in the Relevant Organisations</b>
Elaine CHIK	Honorary Advisor, Eastern District Recreation and Sports Advancement Association Limited
CHOY So-yuk	Honorary President, Ming Wah Yin Ngai Society
	Honorary Advisor, Eastern District Recreation and Sports Advancement Association Limited
HUI Ching-on	Honorary Advisor, Eastern District Recreation and Sports Advancement Association Limited
	Permanent Member, Eastern District Federation of Multi-storey Building Organisations
KU Kwai-yiu	Honorary Advisor, Eastern District Recreation and Sports Advancement Association Limited
KUNG Pak-cheung	Honorary Advisor, Eastern District Recreation and Sports Advancement Association Limited
Aron KWOK	Honorary Advisor, Eastern District Recreation and Sports Advancement Association Limited
LAM Sum-lim	Honorary Advisor, Ming Wah Yin Ngai Society
LEE Chun-keung	Honorary Advisor, Eastern District Recreation and Sports Advancement Association Limited
Bonnie LEUNG	Honorary Advisor, Eastern District Recreation and Sports Advancement Association Limited
Frankie LO	Member, Eastern District Arts Council Limited
	Honorary Advisor, Eastern District Recreation and Sports Advancement Association Limited
NGAN Chun-lim	Honorary Advisor, Eastern District Recreation and Sports Advancement Association Limited
Eddie TING	EDC Representative, Eastern District School Liaison Committee
Dominic WONG	Honorary Advisor, Eastern District Recreation and Sports Advancement Association Limited

21. The Chairman ruled that as other Members declared that they were in nominal capacities in the relevant organisations, they could take part in the discussion and decision-making of the appropriation under tier 1 arrangement of the declaration of interests.

22. The Secretary briefed Members on Paper No. 15/19.

23. After discussion, Members endorsed the paper and the proposed appropriation of funds for this year.

**VIII. Report on the Eighth Meeting of the District Facilities Management Committee**

(EDC Paper No. 16/19)

24. Members noted the above report and endorsed the funding proposals under Items IV and VIII in the paper.

**IX. Report on the Eighth Meeting of the Culture, Leisure, Community Building and Services Committee**

(EDC Paper No. 17/19)

25. Members noted the above report.

**X. Report on the Eighth Meeting of the Traffic and Transport Committee**

(EDC Paper No. 18/19)

26. Members noted the above report.

**XI. Report on the Eighth Meeting of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee**

(EDC Paper No. 19/19)

27. Members noted the above report.

**XII. Report on the Eighth Meeting of the Planning, Works and Housing Committee**

(EDC Paper No. 20/19)

28. Members noted the above report.

**XIII. Reports on the Eighth and Ninth Meetings of the Task Group on Festival Celebrations**

(EDC Paper Nos. 21/19 and 22/19)

29. Members noted the reports of the task group.

**XIV. Report on the 230th Meeting of the Eastern District Management Committee**

(EDC Paper No. 23/19)

30. Members noted the above report.

**XV. Any Other Business**

31. The Vice-chairman said that the Opening Ceremony cum Carnival of the Eastern District Cultural Square under Signature Project Scheme was successfully held on 9 and 10 March. Officiating at the opening ceremony on 9 March were the Chief Executive, the Acting Secretary for Home Affairs, Director of Home Affairs, Director of Leisure and Cultural Services, Director of Architectural Services, District Officer (Eastern), Chairman and Vice-chairman of the EDC, and Chairman and Vice-chairman of the Steering Group on the Signature Project of Eastern District. The symbolic opening ceremony was accompanied with fantastic performances from the Silver Band and Pipe Band of the Hong Kong Police. On the second day, the new premises provided entertainment for residents of Eastern District with stall games and Cantonese Opera excerpt performances. With the wholehearted support from 10 post-secondary institutions, secondary and primary schools and kindergartens and 9 community groups through the production of a wide spectrum of impressive cultural performances, the two-day event had achieved a complete success. The Vice-chairman invited Members to watch a three-minute video for a look back at the event. He also indicated that organisations could now apply to the LCSD for use of the venue in accordance with established procedures, and hoped that the use of such a significant cultural performance and recreational venue could be maximised.

**XVI. Date of the Next Meeting**

32. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm. The Nineteenth EDC Meeting would be held at 2:30 pm on 9 July 2019 (Tuesday).

Eastern District Council Secretariat  
July 2019