

Minutes of the Second Meeting of the Eastern District Council

Date: 5 March 2024 (Tuesday)

Time: 2:30 pm

Venue: Eastern District Council Conference Room

Chairman

Mr CHAN Sheung-man, Simon, JP District Officer (Eastern)

Present

Mr TING Kong-ho, Eddie, MH	Mr LAM Wing-shing	Mr KWOK Wing-kin
Mr TING Wong, Kacee	Mr LAM Wing-cheung	Mr CHAN Hoi-wing, Joseph
Mr WONG Chi-chung	Mr CHAU Chi-yan, Benny	Ms TSANG Cheuk-yi
Ms HO Sau-yin, Zareenah	Ms LIN Cai-ying	Ms CHIK Kit-ling, Elaine
Mr YUEN Kin-chung, Kenny	Mr HUNG Chi-kit	Mr CHENG Chi-sing, MH
Ms LI Lee	Mr HUNG Lin-cham, MH, JP	Ms LAU Suk-yin
Ms NG Ching-ching	Mr HUNG Chiu-kwan	Ms LAU Dana Sing-she
Ms LEE Ching-har	Mr LIANG Li	Mr LAU Hing-yeung, MH
Mr HO Ngai-kam, Stanley	Ms CHAN Hang, MH, JP	Mr LAI Nuen-san
Mr LAM Sum-lim, MH	Mr KWOK Ho-king, Calvin	Mr LU Xiaofeng, Anthony

Government Representatives in Attendance

Mr POON Cheuk-hong, Hong	Assistant District Officer (Eastern)2, Eastern District Office
Ms LUONG An-an, Jacqueline	Senior Liaison Officer (2), Eastern District Office
Ms CHENG Lai-yin, Daisy	Senior Liaison Officer (3), Eastern District Office
Miss NGAI Ka-man, Carman	Senior Liaison Officer (4), Eastern District Office
Mr LAU Chi-kan, Kenneth	Senior Executive Officer (District Management), Eastern District Office
Mr CHAN Tin-chu, Andy	District Commander (Eastern District), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr CHAN Ka-leong, Kieran	Police Community Relations Officer (Eastern District), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr TO Chak-foo	Chief Manager/Management (Hong Kong Island and Islands), Housing Department

Ms YEUNG Min-jing, Anna	Chief Transport Officer/Hong Kong, Transport Department
Mr WONG Man-wong	Chief Leisure Manager (Hong Kong East), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms LEE Wai-ming, Karvie	District Leisure Manager (Eastern), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms CHU Sui-yin	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Eastern), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Ms CHAN Sze-man	Chief Health Inspector (Eastern)2, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr WONG Chun-kin, Tommy	Chief Engineer/South 3, Civil Engineering and Development Department

Secretary

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

The Chairman of the Eastern District Council (EDC) (the Chairman) welcomed all Members and government representatives to the meeting.

2. The Secretariat had not received any declaration of interests from Members under sections 19 to 22 of the EDC Standing Orders. The Chairman reminded Members to declare their interests as necessary.

Agenda Item 1. Confirmation of the Draft Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the Eastern District Council

3. The above draft minutes were confirmed without amendments.

Agenda Item 2. Report on the 1st Meeting of the District Facilities and Works Committee
(EDC Paper No. 8/2024)

4. Mr HUNG Lin-cham, Chairman of the District Facilities and Works

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Committee (DFWC), briefed Members on the captioned report.

5. Members noted the above report.

Agenda Item 3. Report on the 1st Meeting of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee **(EDC Paper No. 9/2024)**

6. Mr Kenny YUEN, Chairman of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee, briefed Members on the captioned report.

7. Members noted the above report.

Agenda Item 4. Report on the 1st Meeting of the Community Involvement, Culture and Recreation Committee **(EDC Paper No. 10/2024)**

8. Mr LIANG Li, Chairman of the Community Involvement, Culture and Recreation Committee, briefed Members on the captioned report.

9. Members noted the above report.

Agenda Item 5. Report on the 1st Meeting of the Traffic and Transport Committee **(EDC Paper No. 11/2024)**

10. Mr Calvin KWOK, Chairman of the Traffic and Transport Committee, briefed Members on the captioned report.

11. Members noted the above report.

Agenda Item 6. Report on the 1st Meeting of the Social Welfare Committee **(EDC Paper No. 12/2024)**

12. Ms Zareenah HO, Chairlady of the Social Welfare Committee, briefed

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Members on the captioned report.

13. Members noted the above report.

Agenda Item 7. Report on the 1st Meeting of the Working Group on Boosting Local Economy **(EDC Paper No. 13/2024)**

14. Mr LAM Sum-lim, Chairman of the Working Group on Boosting Local Economy, briefed Members on the captioned report.

15. Members noted the above report.

Agenda Item 8. Report on Proposals for Distinctive Photo-taking District Landmarks in the Eastern District **(EDC Paper No. 14/2024)**

16. The Chairman remarked that the Eastern District Office (EDO) had proposed to set up a luminous photo-taking landmark (“check-in spot”) at the Eastern District Cultural Square (Cultural Square) at the first EDC meeting. After consultation with Members and Eastern District Youth Community Building Committee, the EDO summarised the views and relayed them to the contractor immediately for expeditious design and installation works. He asked Mr Hong POON, Assistant District Officer (Eastern)2, of the EDO, to report on the progress.

17. Mr Hong POON, Assistant District Officer (Eastern)2, of the EDO, briefed Members on Paper No. 14/2024.

18. The views and enquiries of Members about the agenda item were summarised as follows:

(a) Mr Eddie TING viewed that the “check-in spot” could attract the public with its innovative design. He enquired whether other ancillary facilities, such as retail or catering, could be included in addition to the “check-in spot” in the hope of attracting young people.

(b) Ms Zareenah HO remarked that many decorative lightings in the

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Mainland were solar-powered and enquired whether those at the “check-in spot” were also. Besides, she suggested enriching the “check-in spot” by dividing it into four zones and featuring different thematic cartoon characters.

- (c) Ms LI Lee suggested that fairy tales such as the Enchanted Garden as the theme of the “check-in spot” for the public to stroll through and take photographs with colourful flowers. In addition, she suggested setting up an “Enchanted Garden Gate” at the garden entrance for “check-in” and a carousel outside the gate for the public to take photographs.
- (d) Ms TSANG Cheuk-yi would like solar power to be used for electricity supply in the activities so as to promote and support environmental protection.
- (e) Mr HUNG Lin-cham pointed out that the “check-in spot” activity was currently scheduled to end in the fourth quarter of the current year but the Chinese New Year would come immediately. He suggested replacing the “check-in” installation with the Chinese New Year theme at that time to enrich festive atmosphere subject to the availability of resources.
- (f) Mr Benny CHAU viewed that publicity must be targeted to attract the public and tourists to visit the “check-in spot” and enquired whether the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau and Tourism Board would promote the “check-in spots” in 18 districts to the public and tourists.
- (g) Mr LIANG Li suggested incorporating unique historical and cultural elements of the Eastern District in the “check-in spot” to attract the public and tourists.
- (h) Ms NG Ching-ching would like the Eastern District night market to tie in with the “check-in spot” to achieve higher effectiveness of the night economy.
- (i) Mr WONG Chi-chung enquired whether staff would be deployed to manage the “check-in spot” and whether there would be any time restriction for “check-in”.

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19. Mr Hong POON, Assistant District Officer (Eastern)², of the EDO, noted Members' views and suggestions, and responded to their views and enquiries as follows:

- (a) Regarding retail and catering, it was hoped that the “check-in spot” could attract the public to the Eastern District, and in turn visit and dine in the neighbouring districts of the “check-in spot”, such as Shau Kei Wan, with a view to boosting the economy of the Eastern District.
- (b) Regarding environmental protection, LED light bulbs with low power consumption would be used in the “check-in” installation to minimise electricity consumption as far as practical. The EDO would proactively consider the use of solar energy products if they could tie in with the theme and were practicable.
- (c) Regarding the decoration for the entrance of the “check-in spot”, the EDO would also like to create an immersive experience of being in an open and magnificent Enchanted Garden for the public.
- (d) The EDO would hold a lighting ceremony at the entrance for the “check-in spot” in April.
- (e) Regarding publicity, the lighting ceremony would be publicised through video filming, photography, media liaison, etc.
- (f) Regarding questions such as whether the “check-in spot” could tie in with history, culture and the Eastern District night market, it was expected that the Tam Kung Festival events to be held in May would create a synergy between the “check-in spot” and festive activities. The EDO would like to encourage the public to explore the unique characteristics of the district through the “check-in spot” and learn about the traditional history and culture of the Eastern District and the history of fishermen through the rich events of the Tam Kung Festival.
- (g) Regarding whether the installation of the “check-in spot” could be switched to tie in with different festivals such as the Chinese New Year, the EDO would explore with the contractor again the feasibility of adding other thematic decorative lightings to the “check-in spot” during different festivals later on.

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20. The Chairman thanked Members for their valuable views, and responded to their views and enquiries as follows:

- (a) The “check-in spot” could be tied in with different kinds of activities, including the “Night Dragon Parade@Eastern District” under the Day x Night Vibes in May to boost the economy in the vicinity, as well as various cultural activities with the Eastern District characteristics to be held at the Cultural Square. The large garden behind the stage was planned to be the “check-in spot” while the front of the stage would be used for different kinds of activities, such as ethnic costumes, traditional Chinese crafts or activities with the Eastern District characteristics. The “Night Dragon Parade@Eastern District” would be kick-started at the “check-in spot” and extended all the way to the vicinity of Shau Kei Wan Main Street East.
- (b) On environmental protection, the EDO would discuss with the contractor on the use of environmentally-friendly materials as far as possible.
- (c) On publicity, the EDO would strive to promote the “check-in spot” through various publicity channels and would also like to seek Members’ assistance in promoting to the public concertedly.
- (d) Regarding the suggestion of switching the theme of the “check-in” installation to tie in with different festive lightings, the EDO would proactively explore the feasibility given that the current year would be the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China while the fourth quarter would be the festive season with Christmas and New Year, etc.
- (e) Regarding the suggestion of enriching the “check-in” venue by dividing it into four different thematic zones, it might be difficult to clearly delineate the four zones due to space constraints. The crucial objective of setting up the “check-in spot” was to enable the public to enjoy a comfortable environment and appreciate the beautiful installations. The EDO would also consider incorporating music into the “check-in spot” to enhance the atmosphere where technically feasible in the hope of attracting members of the public from other districts to come to the Eastern District for “check-in”. The EDO would explore the setting up of “check-in” installations at other locations in the Eastern District if

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satisfactory results were achieved.

- (f) Regarding venue management and opening hours, the EDO or Leisure and Cultural Services Department would be responsible for crowd control while the venue owners would also deploy staff for management if members of the public flooded in to “check-in”. For environmental and safety concern, the “check-in spot” would not be open round the clock. It was believed that the opening hours of the venue could meet the public demand as the “check-in” installation was mainly a decorative lighting for the public to “check-in” at night.

21. Members noted the Paper.

Agenda Item 9. Report on Follow-Up on Issues of Community Concern (EDC Paper No. 15/2024)

22. The Chairman remarked that Members were asked to collect public views on the enhancement of the capacity and arrangements for coping with extreme weather in the Eastern District at the first EDC meeting where they immediately reflected the views collected from the local residents in the past. He pointed out that the EDO had consolidated the views and relayed them to the departments concerned while co-ordinating follow-up actions with various departments after the meeting. He asked Mr Hong POON, Assistant District Officer (Eastern)2, of the EDO, to report on the progress.

23. Mr Hong POON, Assistant District Officer (Eastern)2, of the EDO, briefed Members on Paper No. 15/2024.

24. The views and enquiries of Members about the agenda item were summarised as follows:

- (a) Ms Elaine CHIK would like the departments concerned to consider and study whether the Eastern District had the conditions for the construction of a flood storage tank with reference from the significant improvement of the flooding situation in other districts after such construction.
- (b) Mr HUNG Chi-kit pointed out that the torrential rain had caused landslides in which debris flowed to Kam Ping Building in North Point,

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resulting in a large accumulation of debris in the area. He quoted the management company by saying that the cleaning company would not assist in the clearance of the mud as it was not waste, and thus enquired about the government department that would be responsible for rendering assistance.

- (c) Mr Anthony LU welcomed the government's adoption of big data and artificial intelligence for risk assessment of extreme weather. He opined that more accurate risk prediction could be made by correlating the data and information on the intensity of winds and rainfall with the disaster locations collected from the Eastern District in the past decades. Citing the Yiu Hing Road landslide incident as an example, he viewed that the government could step up the issuance of risk warnings to the public during extreme weather.
- (d) Ms LEE Ching-har understood that different departments would carry out different preventive measures and improvement works in response to extreme weather, enquiring whether there was a lead department responsible for co-ordinating with the departments concerned to expedite the works progress and enhance the works arrangements.
- (e) Mr Stanley HO acknowledged the department's efforts in taking forward the drainage improvement works and would like the departments to enhance the drainage system by upgrading the drains in the hillside gullies, so that the Eastern District could cope with the impact of extreme weather on all fronts.
- (f) Mr Benny CHAU enquired whether the government had a clearer procedure for co-ordinating various departments and Care Teams in assisting the affected residents at present after the last torrential rain. Moreover, he enquired whether the provision of relief services to the Eastern District residents under extreme weather would be affected as some Care Team members might not be Eastern District residents.
- (g) Mr Kenny YUEN agreed with the four enhancement perspectives mentioned in the paper. From the alert perspective, he enquired whether the department could discuss with the Hong Kong Observatory the issuance of alert notifications exclusively for the Eastern District, such as forecasting the time, direction and strength of typhoons hitting the Eastern

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District, for residents to take advance preventive measures. Besides, he would like to know whether the departments concerned could notify Members as soon as possible for expeditious notification to residents through their network in the Eastern District in the event of flooding or landslides. He would like to establish a warning notification system in the Eastern District to notify Members of emergencies, such as natural disasters and traffic accidents, as soon as possible for dissemination of the relevant information to residents to minimise the impact on them.

- (h) Ms NG Ching-ching was glad to see the improvement proposals made by the departments concerned and would like the government to step up its efforts in publicising the improvement measures, works schedule and relevant information to the public.
- (i) Ms LI Lee thanked the EDO for the assistance provided in the retaining wall collapse of Southern Building in North Point during the last extreme weather for expeditious resumption of water and electricity supply. She would like the government to formulate a mechanism to co-ordinate the disaster recovery work of all departments.

25. The Chairman thanked Members for their views and suggestions, and responded to their views and enquiries as follows:

- (a) All departments and District Offices had already put in place mechanisms to deal with emergencies. However, greater complementary effect might be achieved with the co-operation of DC members and Care Teams by establishing a more comprehensive and consolidated liaison network in the districts in assisting the government to disseminate information to the public.
- (b) The government departments concerned had planned to carry out a series of preventive measures and improvement works. Members were expected to assist in promoting to the Eastern District residents upon receipt of the relevant information.
- (c) Members could approach the government departments concerned or EDO after the meeting if individual buildings in the Eastern District required assistance.

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- (d) A warning notification mechanism had been put in place in the Eastern District at present. For example, the departments concerned would notify the management office and residents of Heng Fa Chuen when the tide alert level of the water surface off Heng Fa Chuen exceeded the datum level by 3.5 metres. Consideration might also be given to setting up a warning notification mechanism in other locations in the Eastern District when necessary.
- (e) The Care Teams were not emergency rescue teams. They provided appropriate services to the public in need of care and support and served as a bridge of communication between the government and the public.
- (f) The EDO would continue to work with other government departments, Members and Care Teams to cope with extreme weather in the Eastern District. The agenda item would be referred to the DFWC under the EDC for further follow-up, so that Members would be able to carry out more in-depth discussions with the departments concerned and comprehensive follow-up.

26. Members noted the Paper. The agenda item would be referred to the DFWC under the EDC for further follow-up.

Agenda Item 10. Any Other Business

27. There was no other discussion item for the current meeting.

Agenda Item 11. Date of Next Meeting

28. The third meeting of the EDC would be held at 2:30 pm on 7 May 2024 (Tuesday).

29. The meeting ended at 3:30 pm.

Eastern District Council Secretariat
April 2024