

Minutes of the Third Meeting of the Eastern District Council

Date: 7 May 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

Miss CHIU Man-nga, Jasmine	Assistant District Officer (Eastern)1, Eastern District Office
Mr POON Cheuk-hong, Hong	Assistant District Officer (Eastern)2, Eastern District Office
Mr CHAO Ka-man, Stanley	Senior Liaison Officer (1), 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
Mr YEUNG Sze-cheung, Terence	Chief Engineer/South 3 (Ag.), 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 2nd Meeting of the Eastern District Council

3. The above draft minutes were confirmed without amendments.

Agenda Item 2. Report on the 2nd Meeting of the District Facilities and Works Committee
(EDC Paper No. 16/2024)

4. Mr HUNG Lin-cham, Chairman of the District Facilities and Works Committee, briefed Members on the captioned report.

5. Members noted the above report.

Agenda Item 3. Report on the 2nd Meeting of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee

(EDC Paper No. 17/2024)

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 2nd Meeting of the Community Involvement, Culture and Recreation Committee

(EDC Paper No. 18/2024)

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 2nd Meeting of the Traffic and Transport Committee

(EDC Paper No. 19/2024)

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 2nd Meeting of the Social Welfare Committee

(EDC Paper No. 20/2024)

12. Ms Zareenah HO, Chairlady of the Social Welfare Committee, briefed Members on the captioned report.

13. Members noted the above report.

Agenda Item 7. Report on the 2nd Meeting of the Working Group on Boosting Local Economy
(EDC Paper No. 21/2024)

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. Eastern District Office Work Plan 2024-2025
(EDC Paper No. 22/2024)

16. The Chairman remarked that the Eastern District Office (EDO) had been striving to promote district governance and facilitate communication between the government and the public. He asked Mr Kenneth LAU, Senior Executive Officer (District Management), of the EDO, to brief Members on the EDO annual work plan.

17. Mr Kenneth LAU, Senior Executive Officer (District Management), of the EDO, briefed Members on Paper No. 22/2024.

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

- (a) Mr HUNG Lin-cham viewed that the annual work plan with relatively diversified content could respond to different community needs as well as optimise the use of resources from various sectors of the community. However, he was worried that the EDO might not have sufficient manpower considering its heavy workload. Therefore, he would like the Home Affairs Department (HAD) to increase the EDO's manpower. In addition, he was concerned about the building management issues in the Eastern District in view of the large number of severely ageing single-block buildings in the district. He remarked on the importance of the EDO's support in assisting the residents in dealing with management problems. He also cited the case of Neptune Terrace in Chai Wan as an example, saying that the problem was resolved smoothly with the active assistance and co-ordination by the EDO.

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- (b) Mr Kenny YUEN said that the EDO must be very busy with the increasing workload and the need to steer the recently established Care Teams. He pointed out that the highlight of the current year was the celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the National Day, and looked forward to the continuation of the series of celebration activities organised by the EDO to celebrate the National Day.
- (c) Mr Eddie TING opined that the annual plan was very diversified, including district services, building management, Care Teams and “Meet the Public Scheme”. He would like the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau and HAD to publicise the “Meet the Public Scheme” at different levels through different channels, and assist in promoting the services to the public provided by the District Council (DC) Members.
- (d) Mr LAM Sum-lim was concerned about youth development and enquired whether the “E-League” Programme could co-organise activities with the DC Members’ ward offices to promote the programme to more young people in the Eastern District and to provide more development platforms. In addition, in view of the 75th Anniversary of the National Day the current year, he enquired about the feasibility of referring to the Mainland practice of displaying the national flags and regional flags on lamp posts to form a scenic line for “check-in” purpose.
- (e) Ms Zareenah HO agreed with the suggestion of displaying a sea of flags on lamp posts. In addition, regarding the organisation of activities and “Meet the Public Scheme”, she would like the publicity to be conducted in both Chinese and English to keep the public from different ethnic groups informed. She believed that publicity in different languages for large-scale activities, such as the celebration for the National Day, could attract more participation from different ethnic groups.
- (f) Ms LI Lee commended the richness and comprehensiveness of the annual plan. She also suggested recognising outstanding Care Team members for setting role models for other members and making it possible for Care Teams to be recognised by the public. She would also like the department to arrange visits, study tours or exchanges for Care Teams in the Greater Bay Area for their service enhancement.
- (g) Mr Benny CHAU mentioned that the Legislative Council had endorsed

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earmarking about \$10 million per annum for “integrating associations of Chinese fellow townsmen into the district governance systems” in March 2023. Therefore, he would like the EDO to take forward more co-operation projects with clansmen associations, such as co-organising activities with the associations in celebration of the Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR and the National Day.

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

- (a) The Paper had already outlined the EDO’s work in the current year. The EDO would continue with the past practice of taking forward all aspects of work, such as district governance and public services, through the concerted efforts with district personalities and DC Members, as well as optimising its functions.
- (b) He thanked Members for their understanding of the EDO’s manpower shortage. Nonetheless, the EDO would continue to strive to provide different services to the Eastern District residents and to launch a series of festive celebration, local participation and cultural activities to give the public a sense of satisfaction. The EDO would also relay Members’ concern about the EDO’s manpower shortage to the HAD.
- (c) Regarding building management, the HAD had set up a dedicated section for the overall building management in 18 districts, in particular to provide support to “three-nil buildings” or buildings without Owners’ Corporation, etc. The EDO had been providing assistance to “three-nil buildings” in the Eastern District, such as arranging cleansing of public spaces and facilitating liaison and communication. The EDO would continue to complement the enhancement proposals of the Property Management Services Ordinance and assist the buildings in need as far as possible. However, it was the owners’ responsibility for the proper management of their properties while the EDO and other departments could not make decisions on behalf of owners or tenants. Therefore, the EDO could only provide assistance as far as possible while it was sometimes necessary to assist in the communication with tenants through the assistance of Members for co-ordination.
- (d) The EDO was fully supportive of youth development and would provide

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platforms and channels on various fronts. With the current year marking the 10th anniversary of the “E-League” Programme, the EDO would organise more activities for young people in the Eastern District to broaden their horizons and enable them to pursue whole-person development. The EDO would also invite Members for participation in the activities and assistance in the publicity. The suggestion of co-organising activities with the DC Members to offer young people some experience was a good one.

- (e) He thanked Members for their assistance in promoting the “Meet the Public Scheme” and noted that many members of the public had met with them for consultation and assistance. The government would continue to publicise the scheme on various fronts and platforms, including the HAD’s Facebook page or contacting the buildings through the EDO.
- (f) The Chief Secretary for Administration had instructed the 18 District Offices, in collaboration with the DCs, to organise a series of grand and comprehensive large-scale activities in all districts to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the National Day. In addition, the EDO would proactively make reference to Members’ suggestions on the sea of national flags and regional flags on lamp posts, with a view to displaying them in a suitable environment for the public to feel the strong atmosphere of the National Day celebration.
- (g) He thanked Members for their concern and participation in the work of the Eastern District Care Teams (EDCTs). The EDCTs had been established for half a year and their works were recognised and positively received by the public while outstanding members were definitely worthy of recognition. Moreover, the suggestion for arranging exchange activities for Care Teams was also a very good one.
- (h) The EDO fully recognised and valued the contribution of the clansmen associations. The EDO had co-organised with major clansmen associations in the Eastern District the “Chinese Opera Fortnight” under the Eastern District Cultural Festival in January the current year, which featured performances of different traditional Chinese operas and were well received by the public. Besides, representatives of the clansmen associations were also invited to serve in the Eastern District Fire Safety Committee, Eastern District Fight Crime Committee and Area

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Committees in the Eastern District. The EDO would continue to work closely with the clansmen associations to promote more exciting activities to the Eastern District residents.

20. The Chairman concluded by saying that the EDO looked forward to working closely with Members on the work plan for the new year, and striving to improve various areas such as livelihood matters or activities in the Eastern District to enhance the public satisfaction.

21. Members noted the Paper.

Agenda Item 9. Progress Report on Services Provided by Eastern District Care Teams **(EDC Paper No. 23/2024)**

22. The Chairman said that the EDCTs had been established on 29 September last year with a total of 400 members divided into 35 sub-district teams. They were responsible for providing caring services to residents and assisting in handling contingencies, emergencies, etc. in their respective sub-districts. He asked Ms Carmen NGAI, Senior Liaison Officer (4), of the EDO, to brief Members on the Care Teams' work.

23. Ms Carmen NGAI, Senior Liaison Officer (4), of the EDO, briefed Members on Paper No. 23/2024.

24. Members thanked the EDO for providing assistance to Care Teams. The views and enquiries of Members about the agenda item were summarised as follows:

- (a) Mr Joseph CHAN said that he had categorised the organisation of a publicity activity on municipal solid waste charging as "A2C - Provide emergency support for new policies/services of the Government or public organisations" when completing the biannual work report earlier on. However, he had subsequently learnt that the activity did not fall within that category and enquired about the services that fell so.
- (b) Mr KWOK Wing-kin would like to have more trainings for Care Team volunteers to equip them to provide more professional services to the

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residents. He noted that a workshop on very attractive topics including mental health, fire safety and emergency services, etc. would be held on 30 May for the volunteers. However, he enquired whether the department could consider arranging for the workshop to be held during non-weekday office hours (i.e. weekday evenings or weekends) in future.

- (c) Mr Calvin KWOK would like the government to consider widely publicising Care Teams by means of advertisements for volunteer recruitment. In addition, he remarked that different sub-district Care Teams had accumulated different experiences after establishing for half year. Therefore, he suggested the department organising exchange sessions for the teams to exchange their experiences for smoother operation of the EDCTs.
- (d) Mr Kenny YUEN remarked that Care Teams could provide residents with services such as home cleaning, basic repairs or replacement of fluorescent tubes. However, he suggested the department provide a list of accredited contractors with reasonable charges and good reputation for the Care Teams to recommend to the residents if the maintenance works involved replacement of switches, etc. Besides, he recalled that the Care Team under his charge had been requested by the government to provide appropriate assistance to the shelter users at the Temporary Shelter in the Eastern District overnight during typhoons but the Care Team members were neither disciplined forces nor had received any training, enquiring about their power and accountability.
- (e) Ms NG Ching-ching said that the Care Team under her charge had received many assistance requests from the public since its establishment, many of which were for home visits to provide free home cleaning and repairs services, etc. Her Care Team would endeavour to provide assistance and meet the needs of the public. However, the Care Team might not have sufficient resources to provide services such as escort for medical consultations, and would have to refer them to the relevant departments or organisations for follow-up. However, she subsequently learnt that the charges for the services were exorbitant and beyond the affordability of residents, leaving them helpless and disappointed.
- (f) Mr Benny CHAU suggested Care Teams providing services for youth, such as organising sports activities, apart from focusing on services for

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the elderly. He suggested joining hands with Care Teams to negotiate with the organisers of different local competitions to reserve tickets for distribution by Members and Care Teams to the underprivileged. In addition, he would like to collaborate with Care Teams to arrange for Hong Kong homegrown ethnic minority basketball coaches to provide basic trainings to students in the Eastern District or for members of the Hong Kong teams to coach students for basketball competitions. However, as it might involve cross sub-district Care Teams for activity organisation, he enquired about the means of applying for co-operation with Care Teams and whether there were relevant guidelines for reference.

- (g) Mr LAU Hing-yeung opined that all EDCTs had encountered different degrees of difficulties when providing services to the public while most of the team members were volunteers. Therefore, he would like the government to review the resources provided to Care Teams in future and enhance publicity on the social values of Care Teams, as well as recognising the contribution of Care Teams by awarding them with certificates of appreciation, etc.
- (h) Ms TSANG Cheuk-yi shared a case received by her Care Team, in which an old man with children requesting the Care Team to replace all the electrical appliances in his flat. Given that his request was unreasonable and costly, the Care Team did not have sufficient resources to meet his demand and could only assist in identifying an electrical technician to follow up with him directly. However, the elderly made a scene to the Care Team as he was dissatisfied with its failure to replace all the electrical appliances in his flat free of charge. She would like the government to enhance family education and community publicity to remind children not to shift their family responsibilities to Care Teams. Although Care Teams would endeavour to provide services to the public and even arrange volunteers to provide escorting service for medical consultations, they did not have sufficient resources to provide costly services such as those requesting professional electricians for home repairs or replacement of electrical appliances.
- (i) Mr LAM Wing-shing said that his Care Team was unable to revise the nature of the activity during its organisation as his team had filled in too much details in the application form earlier on. Moreover, the

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application form required the inclusion of activities to be organised within the two-year period but some would only be organised in the coming year. Therefore, adjustments might be required as it might not be possible to make an accurate estimate on the expenditure when it was first estimated. He would like the EDO to provide flexibility if Care Teams had to revise the details or budget of the activities.

- (j) Ms LEE Ching-har understood that the government's objective of setting up Care Teams was to help the underprivileged in the district and to organise different types of activities to bring about a sense of satisfaction to the public. She said that the Care Team under her charge would endeavour to help residents solve their problems through different channels and join hands with the EDO to bring a sense of satisfaction to the Eastern District residents.
- (k) Mr Eddie TING said that Care Team members and volunteers provided caring services to residents mostly on a voluntary basis and they were in full-time employment. However, the public often requested Care Teams for immediate response which had overloaded the members and volunteers. He would like the government to review the workload of Care Teams and take forward the continuity of Care Teams' work on a voluntary basis.

25. Ms Carmen NGAI, Senior Liaison Officer (4), of the EDO, noted Members' views and suggestions, and responded to their views and enquiries as follows:

- (a) The EDO would consider organising volunteer workshops on weekends.
- (b) Care Teams wishing to make addition or revision to the approved proposal, including revision to the form of activities or the estimated expenditure, were required to submit an application form for revision to the approved proposal in advance. The application for revision should normally be made at least four weeks before the service implementation. The EDO would submit the application to the "Eastern District Assessment and Coordinating Panels on Care Teams" for approval. However, there was no urgency in applying for revisions to the estimates of expenditure for individual items if the implementation period of the approved proposal lasted for two years unless there was a need for additional expenditure items.

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- (c) Simple home repairs or cleaning services could be provided by volunteers while more complicated repair works had to be carried out by registered professionals. Given that funding had been allocated in the approved proposals of Care Teams for providing simple home repairs or cleaning services, the cost of hiring professionals for repairs works could be covered by the item. Care Teams had to observe the relevant guidelines in the quotation process. For example, two quotations had to be obtained for procurement of service items with an estimated value of \$9,000 or below while at least two quotations had to be obtained for procurement with an estimated value of \$9,000 or above, etc. before engaging qualified contractors for the relevant repair works.

26. The Chairman thanked Members for their views on Care Teams. The EDO would relay Members' views to the HAD, including hoping the government to enhance publicity, appeal to more members of the public to join Care Teams as volunteers, clarify to the public the roles and duties of Care Teams and recognise the contribution of Care Teams. In addition, the EDO would consider organising exchange activities for the EDCTs to enable all Care Teams to exchange views and experience for better and smoother operation of the EDCTs.

27. Members noted the Paper.

Agenda Item 10. Any Other Business

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

Agenda Item 11. Date of Next Meeting

29. The fourth meeting of the EDC would be held at 2:30 pm on 9 July 2024 (Tuesday).

30. The meeting ended at 3:42 pm.

Eastern District Council Secretariat
July 2024