

Minutes of the Eighth Meeting of the Eastern District Council

Date: 4 March 2025 (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 SIU Chak-ye, Raymond, PDSM, PMSM	The Commissioner of Police of the Hong Kong Police Force
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
Ms CHIU Man-nga, Jasmine	Assistant District Officer (Eastern)1, Eastern District Office
Mr FU Yiu-nam, Daniel	Assistant District Officer (Eastern)2, Eastern District Office
Ms LUONG An-an, Jacqueline	Senior Liaison Officer (2), 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 TO Chak-foo	Chief Manager/Management (Hong Kong Island and Islands), Housing Department
Ms CHU Lai-ye, Rachel	Chief Transport Officer/Hong Kong, Transport Department
Ms NG Sau-ling, Steffi	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
Mr LEUNG Kam-hon	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Eastern)

Mr WONG Chun-kin, Tommy (Ag.)/Chief Health Inspector(Eastern)1, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Chief Engineer/South 3, Civil Engineering and Development Department

Secretary

Ms NG Yan-mei, Monie Senior Executive Officer (District Council), Eastern District Office
Miss MA Siu-yee Senior Executive Officer (District Council) (Des.), Eastern District Office

Opening Remarks

The Chairman of the Eastern District Council (EDC) (the Chairman) welcomed Mr Raymond SIU, the Commissioner of Police of the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF), and all Members and government representatives to the meeting.

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

Agenda 1. Confirmation of the Draft Minutes of the 7th Meeting of the Eastern District Council

3. The above draft minutes were confirmed without amendments.

Agenda 2. Commissioner of Police to Meet with the Eastern District Council Members

4. Mr Raymond SIU, the Commissioner of the HKPF, presented a detailed overview of Hong Kong's law and order in 2024 using slides, covering the overall crime situation, deception, homicide, wounding and serious assault, robbery, burglary, theft, blackmail, sexual offences, serious drug offences, triad-related crimes, Mainland visitors committing criminal offences, youth crime, and the crime situation in the Eastern District, while elaborating on efforts to safeguard national security.

5. Members welcomed Commissioner SIU's visit to the EDC to exchange views

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with Members. Members acknowledged and commended the HKPF for its efforts, in particular the police officers of the Eastern Police District. The views and enquiries of Members about the work of the HKPF were summarised as follows:

- (a) Mr Eddie TING thanked the HKPF for implementing Project SAFE. He opined that cooperation among the HKPF, local groups, EDC Members and commercial tenants had been effective in preventing crime, and suggested that the project should be extended to more different areas. In addition, he hoped that the HKPF would extend the anti-deception publicity programme to primary and secondary schools, strengthen communication with parents, and conduct promotion through the Junior Police Call (JPC), thereby reducing deception cases.
- (b) Mr Kenny YUEN thanked the HKPF for their assistance in various corporation meetings in the past, enabling them to proceed smoothly. He hoped that the HKPF would continue to deploy additional staff. Moreover, he said that last year when assisting his family in recovering funds involved in deception, he learnt that the Anti-Scam Helpline could not be used to report crimes. He suggested that the HKPF should review their procedures and set up dedicated teams in each police district to handle deception cases, with a view to shortening the time to freeze bank deposits and reducing victims' losses.
- (c) Ms LI Lee thanked the HKPF for their promotional efforts and expressed concern about new immigrants coming to Hong Kong under the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme being deceived. She hoped to understand how the HKPF would carry out anti-deception publicity programme targeting the new arrivals.
- (d) Ms NG Ching-ching was concerned about the harm caused by space oil drug to the youth, and enquired about the HKPF's arrangements for tackling space oil. Also, she suggested that the HKPF should cooperate with other departments and make better use of technology to tackle livelihood issues, such as increasing surveillance to monitor illegal parking and heighten vigilance.
- (e) Ms LEE Ching-har said that she had answered a call from a newly activated pre-paid SIM (PPS) card, and heard a voice alert message prompting that "This call is made from a new PPS card", with the caller claiming to be a Mainland public security officer. She believed it to be a scam call, and enquired the HKPF on how to follow up on the matter. Further, she expressed concern about Mainland visitors committing offences in Hong Kong, and asked the HKPF whether they could review the current practices, so that Mainland visitors who had been convicted in Hong Kong were permanently banned from entering Hong Kong so as to enhance the deterrent effect.
- (f) Mr Stanley HO thanked the HKPF for their vigorous efforts in cracking down on phone scam syndicates. He considered that

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anti-deception campaigns needed to be carried out on a regular and repeated basis, and noted that the HKPF had made many new attempts, such as filming short videos, on different social platforms. Besides, the Police's swift investigation of the fraudulent SMS cases involving the fake authenticated “#” had precisely sent a positive message to society that the Police could catch criminals within a short period of time, which helped to increase the deterrent effect. Lastly, he said that although space oil had been listed as a drug, he still hoped that the Police could continue to enforce the law in a high-profile manner and step up publicity on campus to protect the next generation.

- (g) Mr LAM Sum-lim was concerned about illegal parking in the Eastern District, and suggested that the HKPF could use devices or sensors to enhance law enforcement and eliminate illegal parking. He also added that the teams in the Eastern District were open to new things and hoped that the Police could consider implementing new projects in the Eastern District during the trial phase.
- (h) Mr LAM Wing-shing said that, in recent years, District Council (DC) Members undertook numerous tasks related to building management and maintenance, during which they had received requests for assistance from many residents in the Eastern District. He therefore asked the HKPF how to handle cases where DC Members were involved in building management tasks, particularly those involving large-scale repairs or those relating to tendering and fake authorisations, and how to prevent criminals from taking advantage of such situations.
- (i) Ms LIN Cai-ying was concerned about the problem of insufficient manpower in the HKPF. She said that the HKPF currently had nearly 6 000 vacancies, and enquired whether the HKPF had difficulty in recruiting, the reasons for the relatively small number of young people joining, and what promotional efforts had been made.
- (j) Mr HUNG Lin-cham was concerned about the service quality of the HKPF, and enquired about the measures taken by the HKPF to address the problem of manpower shortage and to ensure the service quality of the HKPF.
- (k) Ms CHAN Hang opined that “Scameter” was very successful, and that the public had become more alert to unfamiliar calls and refuse to answer all unknown calls. However, the public also refused to answer calls from banks and hospitals. As such, she suggested that the HKPF could conduct research with the Communications Authority to display the name of public institutions as the caller ID.
- (l) Mr Calvin KWOK said that he often received requests for help from the public regarding traffic matters, such as illegal parking, failing to give way to pedestrians on zebra crossings, and riding bicycles on the pavement. He thanked the HKPF for their prompt enforcement. He went on to say that this type of traffic enforcement was very dependent

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on manpower, and it was extremely difficult to implement round-the-clock enforcement at this stage. He therefore enquired the HKPF on how to speed up the use of technology in traffic enforcement.

- (m) Mr LAU Hing-yeung was concerned about the issue of national security. He opined that this issue was about making Hong Kong a better place for living and working, and guaranteeing economic development. He asked how the HKPF would promote national security awareness in the education sector and schools, and whether they would introduce any national security teaching materials.
- (n) Mr LAI Nuen-san noted that the HKPF began installing closed-circuit televisions (CCTVs) in different areas last year. As such, he enquired the HKPF about the progress of the installation of CCTVs in the Eastern District, and whether license plate or facial recognition technology would be incorporated to facilitate law enforcement.

6. Mr Raymond SIU, the Commissioner of Police, thanked Members for their views and recognition of the efforts of the HKPF. He gave a consolidated response to Members' views and enquiries as follows:

- (a) Crime prevention and combating could not be done by the HKPF alone. Members of the public and relevant stakeholders needed to work together to enhance the effectiveness of crime prevention and combating. The HKPF would maintain close contact with security guards in housing estates and shopping malls. When they suspected a crime was being committed, they should report the case immediately so that the Police could dispatch personnel to handle it as soon as possible. Moreover, a Task Force Sub-unit and a Task Force Sub-unit hotline were set up in each police district. If the public noticed any suspicious persons or unusual circumstances, they may dial the Task Force Sub-unit hotline. Members of the Task Force Sub-unit would wear plain clothes to observe and check whether the persons concerned were suspicious so that appropriate follow-up actions could be taken.
- (b) Deception cases happened not only in Hong Kong, but had also become a global crime trend. Last October, the HKPF participated in the Global Anti-Scam Summit held in Singapore, where the organisers estimated that global losses due to scams were about US\$1 trillion, and Asia accounted for about 67%. In 2024, a total of 44 480 cases of deception were recorded in Hong Kong, accounting for 46.9% of all crime. The number of deception cases increased by 4 656 or 11.7% compared to 2023, but the rate was reduced significantly compared to the previous two years.
- (c) Whenever a new type of scam emerged, there would be a large number of victims. Therefore, the HKPF would disseminate information to the public as soon as new scam tactics were detected, even if they had yet to appear in Hong Kong. The HKPF would inform the public

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about different types of fraud cases by making use of various means and media. For example, for “Guess Who” phone scams, as more than 80% of the victims were elderly, the HKPF would provide anti-scam information to the elderly in elderly care homes or during the visits by Care Teams. The number of such phone scams dropped by 48% in 2024, which proved the effectiveness of the publicity efforts.

- (d) Combating deception could not be done solely by the HKPF. To successfully prevent against deception, the tripartite partnership formed by the HKPF, all stakeholders and the public should collaborate closely. Over the past few years, the HKPF had maintained close liaison with key stakeholders, including telecommunications network providers, the Monetary Authority, the Office of the Communications Authority and banks, and held regular meetings to discuss how to prevent new types of scams. In fact, the public played an important role in the tripartite partnership. Most victims tended to ignore anti-scam information because they believed that they would not be deceived. The HKPF hoped that the public would remind individuals within their respective networks and share more anti-scam information, especially the one about new scam tactics. It was essential for people to help spread the word to those around them and, in the role of an observer, remind them to be careful not to be deceived, so as to prevent them from losing their life savings. Otherwise, no amount of promotional efforts by the Police would be effective.
- (e) The HKPF encouraged the public to download “Scameter+” to enhance their anti-scam awareness. “Scameter+” could help the public identify fraud and online traps. Although the search results may indicate lower risks or “no record”, once a suspicious call or website was indicated as risky, the public should be wary regardless of the level of risk indicated. The HKPF had also set up the “Anti-Scam Helpline 18222”, a 24-hour enquiry hotline, and it would only take a minute or two for the public to prevent being deceived.
- (f) Regarding the situation mentioned by Members where Mainland students or Mainland workers in Hong Kong were being deceived, the HKPF was highly concerned about such a trend of deception, and would promote anti-scam information through websites and social media platforms they frequently visited. For example, the HKPF released the latest scam alerts and anti-deception publicity and education information on “Gter.net”, a popular overseas study application and examination communication platform in the Mainland, hoping to eliminate deception at the source. However, the key still lied in whether the Mainland people concerned have paid attention to and cooperated with the messages promoted by the HKPF.
- (g) If the public received any calls from someone claiming to be a “Mainland official”, they could hang up immediately. If they still had

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doubts, they could call the Anti-Scam Helpline and download “Scameter+”.

- (h) The HKPF had always been concerned about youth crime. In addition to organising seminars in schools, they had also published the Youth Crime Prevention Booklet, which featured a selection of crime topics of public concern based on the annual trend of youth crime, with relevant cases, court rulings, signs of unusual behaviour among teenagers, etc. This initiative, in conjunction with youth crime prevention videos, helped reinforce the law-abiding awareness among young people. In addition, the HKPF cooperated with the Education Bureau to organise a training camp for students at JPC@Pat Heung to enhance their crime prevention awareness.
- (i) The HKPF was very concerned about young people being involved in serious drug crimes. In terms of space oil drugs, in addition to law enforcement, the HKPF had been working with various stakeholders and was committed to carrying out anti-drug publicity. The HKPF also collaborated with non-governmental organisations and schools to distribute information packs on the harmful effects of space oil to schools across Hong Kong, and engaged rehabilitated individuals and psychiatrists to produce videos on the adverse impacts of drugs. The videos would be shown to students in schools to enhance anti-drug publicity among young people. He hoped that through a series of publicity programme, education and law enforcement operations, the situation of youth crime and space oil drugs could be improved.
- (j) The HKPF took criminal activities related to building management very seriously. The daily operations of building management included maintenance, cleaning, management, etc., and the procurement process may require tender and signing contracts, which often involved substantial pecuniary interests and became an easy target for criminals. Therefore, the HKPF had taken a series of measures, including proactive and early intervention in large-scale building maintenance projects of owners’ corporations and building management companies, and establishing good communication channels with various parties. The HKPF also collaborated with a number of government departments and public organisations, including the Buildings Department, Fire Services Department, Electrical and Mechanical Services Department, Competition Commission, Property Management Services Authority, and Independent Commission Against Corruption, to implement the RenoSafe Scheme to ensure that the tendering process for building maintenance works was transparent and open through information sharing to facilitate supervision. Also, the HKPF had set up a 24-hour hotline for District Anti-Triad Squads to encourage the public to report related illegal activities.
- (k) In response to the Member’s enquiry about the situation of Mainland visitors committing crimes in Hong Kong, he said that the HKPF had

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always attached great importance to combating any crime, including criminal activities committed by Mainland visitors in Hong Kong. However, he believed that it was not feasible to impose a permanent ban on the entry of Mainland visitors who had committed crimes in Hong Kong.

- (l) The HKPF agreed to utilise technology to carry out various types of law enforcement operations. In terms of illegal parking, the HKPF began issuing electronic tickets from April 2020 to enhance traffic enforcement efficiency. In fact, if illegal parking caused obstruction to the road, the HKPF would tow away the vehicle concerned to enhance the deterrent effect. The HKPF also planned to implement the digitisation of traffic fixed penalty tickets (FPTs) in the first half of 2025 to reduce the manpower for data entry. Moreover, to combat traffic violations, in addition to using speed detection cameras and mobile video teams, the HKPF also launched an electronic report platform “Project PROVE - Public Reporting Offences with Video Evidence”, which allowed the public to report dangerous driving and other traffic violations.
- (m) The overall labour force had declined in recent years, and the HKPF and many industries were facing a shortage of manpower. However, the HKPF had implemented new recruitment measures in the past few years, such as recruiting Hong Kong people studying in the Mainland, and conducting recruitment campaign in local tertiary institutions. Although the number of applicants for the HKPF was rising, the HKPF would strictly select candidates and was confident that staffing shortages would continue to ease.
- (n) The HKPF understood that the public were cautious about answering unfamiliar phone calls. Regarding the Member’s enquiry about how to help the public identify calls from public institutions, it was understood that the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau was conducting relevant studies.
- (o) The HKPF had always attached great importance to national security education. Apart from establishing 15 April as the National Security Education Day every year, the National Security Department of the HKPF had been continuously promoting national security education, and the school liaison officers of the Police Community Relations Office in each district would also visit schools to promote national security education.
- (p) The HKPF believed that increasing surveillance could effectively combat various types of crime. Last year, the HKPF installed a total of 615 CCTVs in various districts across Hong Kong, which helped solve 122 cases and arrest 202 people. This year, the HKPF would install an additional 1 385 CCTVs, bringing the total number of CCTVs installed to more than 2 000, which would help enhance the effectiveness of crime prevention and combating. CCTVs would be installed primarily at crime black spots across the 18 districts or places

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where people gathered, such as Lan Kwai Fong.

7. Mr Andy CHAN, District Commander (Eastern District) of the HKPF, provided supplementary information on the illegal parking situation on Main Street East, pointing out that there were many restaurants and shops on both sides of the road, and that illegal parking occasionally occurred. In 2024, the HKPF had issued a total of 1 376 FPTs for illegal parking in an attempt to change drivers' parking habits. The HKPF also carried out other types of traffic enforcement measures at different times in the district, such as the use of video recordings to combat illegally parked vehicles and drivers that caused danger or serious obstruction to road users.
8. The Chairman thanked Mr Raymond SIU, the Commissioner of Police, and his colleagues for taking the time to attend the meeting and communicating with Members, and asked them to note Members' views.

Agenda 3. Report on the 7th Meeting of the District Facilities and Works Committee **(EDC Paper No. 9/2025)**

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

Agenda 4. Report on the 7th Meeting of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee **(EDC Paper No. 10/2025)**

11. Mr Kenny YUEN, Chairman of the Food Environment and Hygiene Committee, briefed Members on the captioned report.
12. Members noted the above report.

Agenda 5. Report on the 7th Meeting of the Community Involvement, Culture and Recreation Committee
(EDC Paper No. 11/2025)

13. Mr LIANG Li, Chairman of the Community Involvement, Culture and Recreation Committee, briefed Members on the captioned report.
14. Members noted the above report.

Agenda 6. Report on the 7th Meeting of the Traffic and Transport Committee
(EDC Paper No. 12/2025)

15. Mr Calvin KWOK, Chairman of the Traffic and Transport Committee, briefed Members on the captioned report.
16. Members noted the above report.

Agenda 7. Report on the 7th Meeting of the Social Welfare Committee
(EDC Paper No. 13/2025)

17. Ms Zareenah HO, Chairlady of the Social Welfare Committee, briefed Members on the captioned report.
18. Members noted the above report.

Agenda 8. Report on the 5th Meeting of the Working Group on Boosting Local Economy
(EDC Paper No. 14/2025)

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

Agenda 9. Enhancing Community Environment and Strengthening Local Characteristics

(EDC Paper No. 15/2025)

21. The Chairman said that the functions of the DC included collecting the views of the people in the District in respect of an issue specified by the Chairman of the DC, and submitting to the Government a summary of the views collected and the suggested corresponding measures. To further enhance the community environment and strengthen the characteristics of the Eastern District, it was decided that “Enhancing Community Environment and Strengthening Local Characteristics” would be the key district issue that needed to be studied and focused on this year. It was hoped that Members would collect the views of the public so that the relevant departments could take reference from them and implement enhancement measures. The Chairman briefed Members on Paper No. 15/2025.

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

- (a) Mr Eddie TING was concerned about the development of the former Sunbeam Theatre site after its acquisition by a local church. He learnt that the church would provide community facilities such as a community hall at the above site. He hoped that the church would consider retaining some of the features of the Sunbeam Theatre, and opening the community hall or other facilities to be hired by the public and different district organisations or groups.
- (b) Mr WONG Chi-chung enquired about the estimated expenditure for optimising district facilities, and how to deal with the environmental problems in some private places or private streets.
- (c) Mr Kenny YUEN thanked the Chairman for letting Members express their views on the measures to enhance the community, and enquired about the deadline for collecting public views.
- (d) Mr HUNG Lin-cham opined that collecting public views would enable Members to put forward more down-to-earth suggestions, and enquired whether it was necessary to make submissions to the relevant committees or working group for different suggestions.
- (e) Mr Benny CHAU said that in the past, residents who expressed their views to Members through street stalls were generally older, and asked whether the Secretariat could arrange to collect views from some younger residents in the Eastern District through Google Forms.

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23. The Chairman thanked Members for their views, and gave a consolidated reply to their views as follows:

- (a) The Sunbeam Theatre was a cultural landmark in the Eastern District and a very professional venue for Cantonese opera performances. With the closure of the theatre, the number of venues available for hire by groups in the Eastern District for organising cultural activities were reduced accordingly. The Secretariat would convey Members' views to the new owner, hoping to retain some of the traditional features of the Sunbeam Theatre and make the community hall or other facilities available for hire by the public and different groups.
- (b) The purpose of enhancing the community environment was in the hopes that residents of the Eastern District would have a better and more comfortable living environment. The community environment referred mainly to public places. If there were environmental issues related to private places, Members could also discuss them at the appropriate committees, such as issues related to environmental hygiene and rodent infestations, and the relevant departments could also provide views and assistance.
- (c) Members could propose suggestions for improvement to fine-tune existing facilities for the purpose of achieving optimisation. For example, the East Coast Boardwalk (Western Section) opened at the beginning of this year was well received by the public. Members could review the facilities of the Boardwalk or propose improvement measures for ancillary facilities. Members could also put forward some proposals to highlight the characteristics of the district, or collaborate with the traditional festive activities in the Eastern District to strengthen local characteristics and attract more tourists to visit.
- (d) Regarding this district issue, Members could use about two months to collect views from the public, which may include suggestions on optimising district facilities, improving environmental hygiene, and strengthening the characteristics of the Eastern District in tourist attractions to boost local economy. They could then report to the relevant committees or working group, discuss and propose practical recommendations for departments to review and assess the feasibility, and present them to the EDC as appropriate.

(Post-meeting note: (i) The Secretariat had written to the church on 7 March 2025.
(ii) The Secretariat had provided the written response of the church to Members for reference on 17 March 2025.)

Agenda 10. Any Other Business

The Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2025

24. The Chairman thanked the nine EDC Members for representing the Eastern District in the Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2025 “District Councils Challenge Cup” on 9 February 2025 (Sunday), and presented them with letters of appreciation to express his gratitude. In addition, thanks to the efforts of Members in promoting and encouraging residents of the Eastern District to actively participate in this sporting event, the Eastern District was awarded the Champion of the “Citywide Participation Award”.

Agenda 11. Date of Next Meeting

25. The ninth meeting of the EDC would be held at 2:30 pm on 13 May 2025 (Tuesday).

26. The meeting ended at 4:40 pm.

Eastern District Council Secretariat
May 2025