

(Translation)

Minutes of Meeting of Islands District Council

Date : 15 April 2019 (Monday)
Time : 2:00 p.m.
Venue : Islands District Council Conference Room,
14/F, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong.

Present

Chairman

Mr CHOW Yuk-tong, SBS

Vice-Chairman

Mr YU Hon-kwan, Randy, JP

Members

Mr YUNG Chi-ming, BBS
Mr CHAN Lin-wai
Mr WONG Hon-kuen, Ken
Mr WONG Man-hon
Mr Ho Chun-fai
Mr Ho Siu-kei
Ms WONG Chau-ping
Ms YU Lai-fan
Ms LEE Kwai-chun
Ms YUNG Wing-sheung, Amy
Mr TANG Ka-piu, Bill, JP
Mr KWONG Koon-wan
Mr CHOW Ho-ding, Holden
Ms TSANG Sau-ho, Josephine
Mr KWOK Ping, Eric
Ms FU Hiu-lam, Sammi

Attendance by Invitation

Ms WONG May-yin, Alice	Principal Executive Officer, Working Family Allowance Office
Mr CHEUNG Hon-ming, Eddy	Senior Manager (4), Working Family Allowance Office
Ms LAI Suet-yam, Janice	Chief Transport Officer/Subsidy Scheme, Transport Department
Ms CHAN Yuk-fun, Yvonne	Acting Chief Manager (Development), Post Office
Ms LU Pui-ying, Lilian	Senior Manager (Retail Business/Hong Kong), Post Office
Mr PEI Nien-jen, Gordon	Senior Engineer/6 (Lantau), Civil Engineering and Development Department
Mr WAN Chi-kin	District Engineer/Islands, Highways Department

Mr CHENG Chun-wai	Senior Engineer/Design (1), Water Supplies Department
Mr FU Sau-bong	Senior Engineer/Planning Policy (1), Water Supplies Department
Dr LEE Chi-on, Clement	Senior School Development Officer(Islands)1, Education Bureau
Ms KWAN Wai-yin, Katy	Senior School Development Officer(Islands)2, Education Bureau
Mr TONG Ping-tat	Senior Property Service Manager/HK Island & Islands Region, Housing Department
Mr Jeff CHAN	Operations Manager–AEL,TCL&DRL, MTR Corporation Limited
Ms Annie LAM	PR Manager-External Affairs, MTR Corporation Limited
Mr CHAN Yip-wai, Edward	Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Waste Management Policy)5, Environmental Protection Department
Mr LAI Kwok-wai, David	Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Waste Management Policy)6, Environmental Protection Department

In Attendance

Mr LI Ping-wai, Anthony, JP	District Officer (Islands), Islands District Office
Mr AU Sheung-man, Benjamin	Assistant District Officer (Islands)1, Islands District Office
Ms YEUNG Cin-man, Winnie	Assistant District Officer (Islands)2, Islands District Office
Mr MOK Sui-hung	Senior Liaison Officer (1), Islands District Office
Mr WONG Kwok-fai, Alfred	Chief Engineer/Lantau 1, Civil Engineering and Development Department
Mr SIU Yee-lin, Richard	Acting District Planning Officer/Sai Kung & Islands, Planning Department
Ms IP Siu-ming	District Social Welfare Officer (Central Western, Southern & Islands), Social Welfare Department
Mr LING Ka-fai	District Lands Officer/Islands, Lands Department
Mr KWOK Chi-hang	Administrative Assistant/Lands, Lands Department
Ms TAM Nga-ching	District Commander (Lantau), New Territories South Regional Headquarters Lantau District, Hong Kong Police Force
Mr LAU Cheng-fung	District Commander (Marine Port District), Hong Kong Police Force
Ms KWOK Sze-wai	Police Community Relations Officer (Lantau District), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr YUEN King-ho	Police Community Relations Officer (Marine Port District), Hong Kong Police Force
Ms CHOW Pui-sze, Alice	Chief Transport Officer/Boundary, Transport Department
Ms LAI Wing-sau, Winsy	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Islands), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Ms HO Sau-fan, Fanny	Chief Leisure Manager (New Territories West), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr CHAU Chun-wing, Tomy	District Leisure Manager (Islands), Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Secretary

Ms Dora CHENG	Senior Executive Officer (District Council), Islands District Office
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Welcoming Remarks

The Chairman welcomed Members and representatives of the government departments to the meeting and introduced the following representatives of the government departments who attended the meeting:

- (a) Mr SIU Yee-lin, Richard, Acting District Planning Officer/Sai Kung & Islands of Planning Department (PlanD) who attended the meeting in place of Ms TAM Yin-ping, Donna; and
- (b) Ms KWOK Sze-wai, Police Community Relations Officer (Lantau District) of Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) who attended the meeting in place of Mr WU Sai-yiu.

2. The Chairman welcomed ex officio members Mr Ho Chun-fai, Mr Ho Siu-kei and Ms WONG Chau-ping to serve on the Islands District Council (IDC).

I. Confirmation of the Minutes of Meeting held on 25 February 2019

3. The Chairman said that the captioned minutes had incorporated the amendments proposed by the government departments and Members, and had been distributed to Members for perusal before the meeting.

4. The captioned minutes were confirmed unanimously without amendment.

II. Election of Vice-Chairman of Traffic and Transport Committee

5. The Chairman said that the nomination period for the Vice-Chairman of the Traffic and Transport Committee ended at 1 p.m. on 15 April 2019 and the Secretariat received just 1 nomination for Ho Siu-kei to fill the position. He formally declared that Mr Ho Siu-kei was automatically elected Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

III. Question on request for the Government to make public the details of planning progress and timetable of Tung Chung West Extension (Paper IDC 25/2019)

XI. Question on progress of Tung Chung West Extension (Paper IDC 33/2019)

6. The Chairman said that the two items III and XI were similar in content and proposed that they be discussed at the same time. Both the Transport and Housing Bureau (THB), Highways Department (HyD) and MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) had provided written replies for Members' perusal.

7. Mr Bill TANG presented the question briefly.
8. Mr Eric KWOK presented the question briefly.
9. Mr Bill TANG said he supported infrastructure development as it could create job opportunities and increase housing supply but the provision of housing and transport facilities should be concurrent. He was disappointed that some infrastructure proposals for Tung Chung were not taken forward promptly. Tung Chung New Town Extension project was now in progress but no railway lines were provided in tandem, and he was afraid that saturation of transport facilities in the district might trigger public discontent in the future. He urged THB and MTRCL to provide the specific details of the project.
10. Mr Eric KWOK expressed his views as follows:
- (a) He was disappointed that the written reply of THB and HyD had not included the timetables of the Tung Chung East (TCE) and Tung Chung West (TCW) MTR Stations. He criticised that they did not face up to the problem and lost people's trust. The reply of THB said that the implementation of the projects depended on the assessment of patronage and availability of resources. He opined that passenger demand always changed and the resident population would grow to more than 30 000 in 5 years with the development of Tung Chung Areas 99 and 100. Yat Tung Estate already had a population of 46 000, and the population of Mun Tung Estate would also grow to 12 000 by year-end. With the completion of Yue Tai Court next year, the population would continue to increase. The Government was however dragging its feet on the project. In contrast, the construction of Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) was not hindered as above and was completed within a short time. He objected strongly to the way THB and HyD were handling matters.
 - (b) According to the written supply, the preliminary proposed completion date of Railway Development Strategy 2014 might be subject to change according to the circumstances. He was afraid that the project would end up not getting off the ground. In 2000, the departments pledged that MTR Stations would be built for Yat Tung Estate to attract tenants, but no progress had been made, raising suspicion of the Government deceiving tenants.
11. Ms Sammi FU pointed out that despite the policy of promoting "transport infrastructure first", discussion of the TCE Station and TCW Extension project had continued for a long time. TCE had a population of several ten thousands. Reclamation had commenced off Tung Chung and there would be tens of thousands of people moving in by 2024, resulting in an increase in population to 80 000 or 90 000

which would aggravate the traffic problem. She urged THB to provide the completion dates of TCE Station and TCW Extension promptly.

IV. Question on simplifying the application procedures of Working Family Allowance
(Paper IDC 26/2019)

12. The Chairman welcomed Ms WONG May-yin, Alice, Principal Executive Officer and Mr CHEUNG Hon-ming, Eddy, Senior Manager (4) of the Working Family Allowance Office (WFAO) to the meeting to respond to the question.

13. Mr Bill TANG presented the question briefly.

14. Ms Alice WONG made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) She first reported on the updated work schedule of WFAO. Apart from administering the Working Family Allowance (WFA) Scheme, the office took up from the Labour Department (LD) the administration of the individual-based Work Incentive Transport Subsidy (I-WITS) Scheme with effect from 1 April 2019. To further facilitate eligible households'/applicants' applications for WFA/I-WITS, the office was planning to launch e-submission service for applicants of the WFA and I-WITS Schemes to submit applications and supplementary information through their computers or mobile phones. The office was now exploring with the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) the use of GovHK for receiving applications. Members would be informed when further information was available. Before the launching of e-submission service, applicants who had submitted the applications in paper mode could provide supplementary information by fax or email.
- (b) Regarding whether the application forms for the WFA Scheme, I-WITS Scheme and student financial assistance schemes could be combined into a single form, she pointed out that the various student financial assistance schemes were set up to enable students with financial difficulties to continue their education, while the WFA Scheme was to encourage self-reliance of low-income households not receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA). As the objectives of the schemes were different, the application eligibility, approval mechanism, application deadline and information/supporting documents required for respective schemes varied. There were practical difficulties in combining the application forms into one single form. The office took over the I-WITS Scheme from LD with effect from 1 April 2019. If an I-WITS applicant was also a household member of a WFA application and the I-WITS and WFA applicants planned to submit their applications in the same month, they could send the application forms to the office together.

The two applications would be passed to the same vetting team for processing for convenience of communication with the applicants and sharing of some common supporting documents.

- (c) Regarding the question of giving clearer guidelines as well as simplifying the application form and income/working hour record form to facilitate casual workers' and self-employed persons' making applications, she said that applicants should make reference to the "Guidance Notes for Applications" and "Sample for completing Application Form" on application procedures. The office had also provided various statement samples for applicants' reference. Statement on work and profit and loss accounting statement for self-employed person (No. WFA005A) consisted of the work record and spending record with items to be filled out by the applicants. Statement on work and profit and loss accounting statement for self-employed drivers (No. WFA006A) also included the above two parts as well as fuel charges, car rental, etc. for applicants to fill in. For casual workers without fixed employers, they could fill in their monthly wages and working hours in another statement (No. WFA007A) for the office's consideration. If any applicants had difficulty in completing the statement/providing the relevant information, they were welcome to contact the office for appropriate assistance.

15. Mr Bill TANG expressed his views as follows:

- (a) A 4-member household with 2 children was entitled to a monthly subsidy of \$3,200 which could supplement the cost of living. He pointed out that residents of Islands District had to travel long distances to submit the application at the WFAO in Kwun Tong. He hoped that clear guidelines could be provided and e-submission service would be available for applicants to submit the application more conveniently.
- (b) On the different policy objectives of the WFA Scheme, WITS Scheme and student financial assistance schemes mentioned by WFAO, he opined that since the schemes were implemented by the same agency processing applications from non-CSSA recipients, there should be no difference between one another. Some households reflected that when applying for student financial assistance, they submitted to the Student Finance Office (SFO) the employment certificate signed by the employer. But 2 months later, when they applied for WFA, WFAO asked for the employment certificate again. As the applications were processed by the same agency, he opined that the policy objective of a scheme was no different from another, which were both focusing on children's interests (For households with children, the amount of subsidy granted would be higher). He therefore suggested that the application

forms for student financial assistance schemes and the WFA Scheme be combined to streamline the applications.

- (c) On self-employment, since the introduction of the monthly transport subsidy of \$600 by the Commission on Poverty in early years, his office had helped a total of about 4 000-5 000 residents complete the application forms. Although they had provided in the application forms the basic information of self-employment and monthly working hours according to WFAO's instructions, the declaration form on income was still required by WFAO as an income proof, thus duplicating the information provided in the application forms. He hoped that a more user-friendly application method would be adopted.

16. Mr Eric KWOK concurred with Mr Bill TANG's views. His office helped a daily average of 2-3 residents complete the application forms. The scheme targeted low-income households but the design of application form was complicated. He suggested that WFAO should simplify the form by requiring the applicants to declare that they understood that the making of a false statement knowingly, wilfully or by deceit would constitute a criminal offence, and submit the tax return for the past year as well as an employment reference from the employer upon resignation. It could alleviate the workload of processing applications and remove the barrier to applicants due to complex procedure.

17. Ms Alice WONG made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) She said the WFA Scheme aimed to benefit more eligible households. Outreach teams were deployed to explain the scheme to the public. Regarding the completing of application form, she understood that applicants would like to see that the form would be more simplified. However, as the scheme was funded by public money, it was an auditing requirement for WFAO to vet the applications with the support of documentary proof. Some first-time applicants might encounter difficulties as information for the previous 6 months had to be submitted. After the first-time application, the applicants would receive a pre-printed form with basic particulars of the applying households printed on the form. Applicants would only be required to produce supporting documents on working hours, income and asset for the new claim period.
- (b) If the employment certificate from the employer had been submitted to SFO and the claim period for WFA was the same as that of student financial assistance, only the photocopy of the employment certificate was required. If the claim period for WFA was not covered in the employment certificate, additional proof would be needed. It was understood that the applicant might need time to get the documents ready, and he was allowed to submit the application form by the deadline with

the supporting documents submitted afterwards. He could also inquire of the office about which documents were required.

- (c) She thanked Members for helping first-time applicants complete the application form and said that WFAO understood the difficulties they had encountered in completing the form. WFAO had enlisted 97 units under 31 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) (including institutions serving ethnic minorities) to assist first-time applicants in completing the form. People in need of service might seek assistance from these NGOs.

18. Mr Bill TANG added that he was not asking WFAO to relax the approval standard. Since both schemes were processed by the same agency, he considered that the application forms should be combined to streamline the administrative procedures instead of the staff processing the forms twice. He noticed and appreciated that WFAO provided outreach service, and that the staff would visit the districts at different times to explain the schemes and attend the community events.

19. The Chairman hoped that WFAO would follow up on Members' suggestions proactively.

(Mr Holden CHOW and Mr KWONG Koon-wan joined the meeting at 2:25 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. respectively.)

V. Question on request for including the kaito service plying between Peng Chau and Discovery Bay in the Public Transport Fare Subsidy Scheme
(Paper IDC 27/2019)

20. The Chairman welcomed Ms LAI Suet-yan, Janice, Chief Transport Officer/Subsidy Scheme of TD to the meeting to respond to the question. TD would give response on behalf of THB.

21. Ms Josephine TSANG presented the question briefly.

22. Ms Janice LAI responded as follows:

- (a) The Public Transport Fare Subsidy Scheme (Scheme) had come into effect from 1 January 2019 with a view to relieve the fare burden of commuters who travelled on local public transport services for daily commuting and whose public transport expenses were relatively high. Under the Scheme, commuters with actual monthly public transport expenses exceeding \$400 were eligible for the public transport fare subsidy. The Government would provide monthly subsidy amounting to 25% of the actual public transport expenses in excess of \$400, subject to a maximum of \$300 per month.

- (b) The Scheme covered MTR, franchised buses, green minibuses, ferries and trams as well as designated routes of kaitos, red minibuses, non-franchised buses providing residents' service (RS) and employee services (ES) approved by TD. For kaitos, red minibuses, RS and ES, given that their mode of operation was relatively flexible, and their fares did not require TD's approval, risk-based monitoring measures were adopted to suitably manage the risks and minimize abuses of the Scheme as far as possible. Operators of these services were required to fulfill the basic requirements, such as installing Octopus payment system, registering with TD the origins and destinations of the routes, etc. before their application to TD for joining the Scheme. Other operational requirements to be complied with included uploading the Octopus transaction records in a timely manner to facilitate the calculation of actual transport expenses of commuters, as well as displaying the logo of the Scheme at a conspicuous location of the vehicles/vessels.
- (c) Before participating in the Scheme and annually thereafter, the operators were required to appoint independent auditors to conduct assurance exercises on respective system of internal control in accordance with the standards issued by Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants and submit reports to TD with a view to mitigating the risk of abuse upon the implementation of internal monitoring measures. The operators of the above 4 modes of public transport services were welcome and encouraged to join the Scheme. TD had a meeting with the operator of the subject kaito service in end-March. The operator expressed interest in joining the Scheme at the meeting and TD made suggestions about the operational arrangements to the operator for joining the Scheme. She hoped that the operators would submit the applications early and pledged that the applications would be processed promptly after receipt.

23. Ms Josephine TSANG said that many parents on Peng Chau went to work and the children were brought to school by their grandparents. Taking kaito as an example, passengers not using Octopus cards were required to pay the full fare, hence aggravating the household burdens. Currently, the Government promoted raising the retirement age to 65 and many people aged over 65 in Peng Chau remained in the labour market. In fact, the majority of cleansing workers in Discovery Bay were Peng Chau residents aged over 65. They were in a tough financial situation but could not benefit from the Government's public transport fare subsidy. This was unfair to the Peng Chau residents. She asked whether TD would consider including the Peng Chau-Discovery Bay route in the Scheme, whether the kaito service at present were eligible for joining the Scheme and whether there was technical problems leading to refusal of the application of Peng Chau kaito.

24. Ms Janice LAI responded as follows:

- (a) People aged 65 or above could enjoy the benefit from the Public Transport Fare Subsidy Scheme as well as the fare concessions under the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities at the same time. Meanwhile, members of the public could continue enjoy fare concessions offered by individual public transport operators (such as MTR fare discounts for children). The Public Transport Fare Subsidy Scheme was applicable to all persons regardless of their age, asset or income levels. If the elderly people took public transport services and the relevant expenses were recorded on their Octopus cards, they would be eligible for the public transport fare subsidy if the monthly public transport expenses exceeded \$400. The Government would calculate the subsidy entitlement on the basis of the actual public transport expenses recorded on the Octopus cards.
- (b) Regarding whether the kaito service of Peng Chau-Discovery Bay would be included, she said the application of the kaito route for joining the Scheme had not yet been received. TD noted that the operator had not submitted the application due to operational considerations. TD would maintain liaison with the operator to explore ways to solve the operational problems.

25. Ms Amy YUNG expressed her views as follows:

- (a) The residents taking the route of Peng Chau-Discovery Bay would be affected, e.g. many parents in Discovery Bay took their children to school in Peng Chau, and it would be unfair to them if the route was not included in the Public Transport Fare Subsidy Scheme.
- (b) The Public Transport Fare Subsidy Scheme, as its name suggested, concerned the use of public transport. To her understanding, RS was not public transport but some people treated the RS of Discovery Bay as one. She had written to TD to ask for clarification but with nil result. She opined that the blurred distinction between RS and public transport had led to misuse of RS operating along certain routes. She hoped TD would explain the difference between them.

26. Ms Josephine TSANG was puzzled over the way TD was handling matters. She said lots of public transport accepted Octopus card for payment, including the Peng Chau-Discovery Bay kaito service. The kaito operator provided two sailings simultaneously to divert passenger flow but no Octopus devices were installed at the pier. A mobile Octopus device was passed around for payment onboard. Since the journey only took around 10 minutes and the manual fare collection was slow, the kaito had to slow down for completion of fare collection before it picked up speed. But business is business, and she understood the approach taken by the operator. She suggested TD consider installing an Octopus device at the pier for passengers to pay

fare with Octopus cards before queuing up for boarding to save time. She did not think the staff would ask the elderly to produce the identification for proof of age. The subsidy mentioned existed in name only. She urged the Government to discuss with the operator for a better fare collection method for Peng Chau residents to enjoy the subsidy.

27. Ms Janice LAI responded as follows:

- (a) The department discussed with the operator in late March its operation, and the payment issue mentioned by Ms TSANG was raised by the operator. TD would continue to explore options with the operator and study the feasibility of Members' proposal with the operator and the relevant departments.
- (b) On the definition of public transport, she was unclear about the details of communication between Ms YUNG and the department staff earlier on, so no relevant details could be provided. She added that the Scheme covered RS, and RS operators fulfilling the basic requirements and the pledges e.g. appointment of independent auditors to conduct internal auditing and monitoring, submission of reports, etc. could apply to TD for joining the Scheme. The routes meeting the requirements could be included in the Scheme after assessment of the application. At present, 37 RS routes had been covered under the Scheme, including those serving Discovery Bay.

28. Mr Ken WONG expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He considered that Ms TSANG referred to the concessionary fare of \$2 for the elderly people, and what TD said just now referred to another transport fare subsidy scheme.
- (b) He declared that he was a paid staff and not the owner of Peng Chau Kai To Limited. He said he had represented the company at a meeting to discuss the technical issues with TD. After the Chief Executive promulgated the Public Transport Fare Subsidy Scheme in 2017, Peng Chau Kai To Limited had maintained communication with TD and expressed interest in participating in the Scheme. The delays in implementation were due to policy and technical matters and had nothing to do with the Scheme itself.
- (c) He said that kaito had to apply to TD for a fare increase. According to the relevant consultation documents, the company had no power to increase fares arbitrarily and the fares were subject to regulation by the Ferry Services Ordinance (Cap. 104).

VI. Question on replacement of Next Generation Smart Identity Card for elderly persons
(Paper IDC 28/2019)

29. The Chairman stated that the Immigration Department (ImmD) had provided a written reply for Members' perusal.

30. Ms Josephine TSANG presented the question briefly.

31. Ms Josephine TSANG said that the department expressed gratitude to district council (DC) members' offices for providing assistance to people in need for identity card replacement. To her understanding, most of the elderly persons in Peng Chau seldom left the island except for medical treatment and she did not think the department's proposal was realistic. She urged it to address the needs of elderly persons and non-residents of Islands District's residential care homes for the elderly (RCHE). She pointed out that there were no RCHEs in Peng Chau, Sok Kwu Wan or Yung Shue Wan.

32. The Vice-Chairman Mr Randy YU concurred with Ms Josephine TSANG's views and said he had earlier proposed for ImmD to provide on-site identity card replacement service for the elderly in remote areas (e.g. rural committee offices). He requested the Secretariat to continue to follow up and urged the department to expedite the arrangement.

33. Mr HO Siu-kei said the situation in Tai O was similar. It had a population of around 3 000 of whom about 60% were elderly persons. He requested ImmD to provide the same service in Tai O on behalf of the elderly persons living there.

34. Mr Eric KWOK suggested setting up dedicated smart identity card replacement centres at the rural committee offices to address the needs of the elderly.

35. Ms Josephine TSANG said that owing to the geographical remoteness, it was necessary to provide on-site identity card replacement service to the elderly of Islands District. She requested the Secretariat to follow up on the matter promptly.

36. Ms Amy YUNG agreed to the proposal of Ms Josephine TSANG. She opined that owing to the scattered population in Islands District, she urged ImmD to consider providing on-site identity card replacement service in Discovery Bay and other areas as well as the rural committee offices.

37. Ms LEE Kwai-chun said that on-site replacement service was also required in Cheung Chau. She said the elderly people were helpless with the identity card replacement procedures and opined that it would be best to provide on-site replacement service.

38. The Chairman asked the Secretariat to relay Members' views to the relevant departments

VII. Question on extending business hours of Tung Chung Post Office and provision of additional postal facilities
(Paper IDC 29/2019)

39. The Chairman welcomed Ms CHAN Yuk-fun, Yvonne, Acting Chief Manager (Development) and Ms LU Pui-ying, Lilian, Senior Manager (Retail Business/Hong Kong) of Post Office to the meeting to respond to the question.

40. Mr Holden CHOW presented the question briefly.

41. Ms Lilian LU responded as follows:

- (a) There were now 121 post offices in Hong Kong, of which over 90% or about 110 opened from 9 a.m. or 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or 5 p.m. from Monday to Friday and 9 a.m. or 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, with just a few located at busy areas (e.g. in Central, Causeway Bay, Yau Ma Tei and Tsim Sha Tsui) open till 6 p.m., while post office with low postal demand (such as Chuk Yuen Post Office) would be closed for 1 more day during the week. Tung Chung Post Office opened from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Monday to Friday.
- (b) Hongkong Post had been monitoring closely the operation of Tung Chung Post Office. Visits were made to Tung Chung Post Office several times the previous year to check the queuing situation and the service was found meeting the performance pledge. The opening hours of each post office were reviewed on a regular basis according to the transactions at different time intervals so as to adjust the resources allocated as appropriate. The actual number of transactions made in Tung Chung Post Office from January to March 2019 shrank by around 6% from the corresponding period of the previous year, and the number of transactions over “PayThruPost” on average also went down by about 12%. The transactions in the late afternoon were also reviewed. From January to March 2019, for example, the customer traffic flow in Tung Chung Post Office was not busy before the closing time from Monday to Friday, indicating that there would be spare capacity to cope with a rise in service demand.
- (c) Besides Tung Chung Post Office, 22 roadside postal boxes were installed in the district for residents to post mail items. The neighbouring convenience stores also sell booklets of postage stamps and provided bill payment service. Residents who collected mail at the counters could change the mail collection offices if they wished. When residents having urgent needs for counter service beyond the service hour of Tung Chung Post Office, they could visit the post office at the airport which

opened from 8 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. from Monday to Saturday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday and public holiday. After taking into consideration the public need for postal services and the principle of proper use of resources, Hongkong Post opined that the present postal facilities in the district could meet the needs of the community, and there was no justification for extending the business hours of Tung Chung Post Office at this stage. It would monitor closely the community demand for postal service and decide the business hours under the principle of optimal utilisation of resources.

- (d) Tung Chung Delivery Office commenced operation at Wing A, G/F, Ying Chui House, Ying Tung Estate, Tung Chung with effect from 15 April 2019. To cope with the increasing demand for postal delivery service arising from development in Mun Tung Estate and Ying Tung Estate, Hongkong Post installed 2 temporary postal boxes (Nos. 717 and 719) at the bus stop on Ying Tung Road opposite the Visionary and Mun Tung Estate bus terminus on Yue Tung Road in December 2018 and March 2019 respectively. The relevant government departments including District Land Office (DLO), HyD and TD, etc. were being consulted on the setting up of permanent postal boxes. The permanent postal boxes were expected to be installed in the second quarter of 2019. Prior to the completion of the installation work, the temporary postal boxes would continue to be placed there to serve the public.

42. Ms Yvonne CHAN added that a suite of lockers “iPostal Station” would be made available for use at Ying Tung Estate and expected to be installed in the fourth quarter of this year.

43. Mr Holden CHOW said that the statistics available failed to justify the need for extending the opening hours of Tung Chung Post Office at present, but quite a number of residents had so requested. In view of the rising population in Tung Chung, he believed Tung Chung Post Office would need to extend its opening hours in future and urged Hongkong Post to think about it carefully.

44. Mr Eric KWOK said that at the meeting of the Community Affairs, Culture and Recreation Committee the previous year, he had requested the extension of the opening hours of Tung Chung Post Office. With the rapid growth of population, the demand for facilities could no longer be determined on the planning criteria as before. Also, since lots of residents were the employees of the Airport Island working irregular hours in the services sector, the post office should extend the opening hours to cater for the demand. He cast doubt on the statistics which indicated that the opening hours could cope with public demand when residents reflected that there were long queues of customers during peak times for bill payment. He suggested opening extra customer service counters on busy days. He also opined that planning should be made early for extension of the opening hours of the post office to meet the demand of the growing population in Tung Chung.

45. Ms LEE Kwai-chun said that the same problem was facing Cheung Chau. If a resident left office at about 4 o'clock, the post office would be closed by the time he got there, so he had to take time off from work when he wanted to collect registered letters or parcels. She suggested the post office extend its opening hours by an hour to cater for public demand.

46. Ms Lilian LU made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) Hongkong Post would monitor closely the future development of Tung Chung and set the business hours of the post office in line with the principle of optimal use of resources. Regarding the comment of Mr Eric KWOK that many residents worked in the airport, Hongkong Post suggested that they use the Airport Post Office which opened from 8 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. from Monday to Saturday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday and public holiday.
- (b) Hongkong Post had been monitoring the operation of Tung Chung Post Office, including making several site visits last year to check the queuing situation therein. Regarding the proposal for opening more counters to reduce the waiting time for bill payment, there were 4 counters at present in Tung Chung Post Office and it would open 2 or 3 to provide various postal services (including bill payment) according to the customer flow. According to the performance pledge of Hongkong Post, it aimed to serve the customers of counter service within 10 minutes during non-peak hours and 25 minutes during peak hours or periods with an achievement rate of 98%, and the achievements were met over the past 5 years. It was hoped that DC would appeal to the public to use the counter service of Tung Chung Post Office at non-peak times, i.e. 10:30 a.m. to noon and 2:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. from Monday to Friday or 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday to minimize the waiting time.
- (c) For the proposed extension of Cheung Chau Post Office's opening hours, the development in Cheung Chau would be kept in view and the opening hours would be reviewed under the principle of optimal utilisation of resources. If counter services were needed for collection of mail items, the residents might change the collection office to another post office that is located nearer to their places of work.

VIII. Question on long-term planning for footpath off Silvermine Beach Resort, Mui Wo
(Paper IDC 30/2019)

47. The Chairman welcomed Mr PEI Nien-jen, Gordon, Senior Engineer/6 (Lantau) of Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) and Mr WAN Chi-kin, District Engineer/Islands of HyD to the meeting to respond to the question.

48. The Vice-Chairman Mr Randy YU presented the question briefly.

49. Mr WAN Chi-kin said that to his knowledge, CEDD was conducting the study on shore protection and strengthening works, and he asked the representative of CEDD to provide further information.

50. Mr Gordon PEI said that CEDD would commission consultants to prepare the preliminary design option for the shore protection and strengthening works and the ground investigation proposal. He advised that they were currently discussing with the Geotechnical Engineering Office on the arrangements for ground investigation works. The consultants would also examine the trees conditions and underground utilities in the vicinity of Ngan Kwong Wan Road in order to formulate the detailed design. When the consultants confirmed the detailed design for the shore protection and strengthening works based on the ground investigation results, CEDD would consult the relevant departments and DC. He said that if the progress was smooth, the project would be expected to commence in the second half of 2020.

51. The Vice-Chairman Mr Randy YU hoped that the works would commence in the second half of 2020 as scheduled.

IX. Question on progress of treated water supply in remote areas in Islands District
(Paper IDC 31/2019)

52. The Chairman welcomed Mr CHENG Chun-wai, Senior Engineer/Design (1) and Mr FU Sau-bong, Senior Engineer/Planning Policy (1) of Water Supplies Department (WSD) to the meeting to respond to the question.

53. The Vice-Chairman Mr Randy YU presented the question briefly.

54. Mr FU Sau-bong said that regarding the treated water supply to Tai Long Tsuen, WSD had been in close liaison with the Working Group on treated water supply to remote areas in Islands District under IDC and both sides had held a number of meetings for discussion and exchange of views. On 20 December last year, Assistant Director of Water Supplies conducted a site visit with the convenor Mr Bill TANG and other working group members to obtain more details about Tai Long Tsuen with a view to studying the feasibility of various water supply options and exploring different methods and ways for implementation. Meanwhile, WSD was informed by Development Bureau (DEVB) that the Lantau Conservation Fund would be set up. CEDD liaised with WSD and held meetings to explore the possible use of Lantau Conservation Fund for the treated water supply project of Tai Long Tsuen. After detailed study and examination of various options, WSD considered that the most feasible option was to extend the water supply system from Chi Ma Wan to Tai Long Tsuen, which would involve the construction of pumping station, high-level service reservoir and around 2.3-kilometer water main. If the Legislative Council (LegCo)'s

approval was obtained for the setting up of the Fund, CEDD would consider making use of the Fund for the treated water supply project of Tai Long Tsuen.

55. The Vice-Chairman Mr Randy YU enquired if the treated water supply project of Tai Long Tsuen could be financed by the Lantau Conservation Fund, whether the department would continue to seek funding approval from LegCo for the same project. He also asked WSD to provide the work schedule.

56. Mr FU Sau-bong said that as stated earlier, the Lantau Conservation Fund would be set up to support conservation and related projects and minor local improvement works in Lantau so as to conserve the rural environment in Lantau and improve the livelihood of local residents in remote villages in Lantau. As rural environment such as Tai Long Tsuen fell within the scope of the Fund, the Lantau Conservation Fund would be the most suitable funding source to support the project for treated water supply to Tai Long Tsuen. While request was made by CEDD for the setting up of the Fund, WSD would proceed to prepare the design of the treated water system for Tai Long Tsuen proactively in order to enable timely invitation of tenders immediately after funding approval was obtained so that the villagers of Tai Long Tsuen would have treated water supply as soon as possible.

57. Mr Holden CHOW was pleased that the treated water supply project of Tai Long Tsuen was progressing. The representative of WSD said just now that a funding request would be made for the Lantau Conservation Fund to finance the project. Noting that the Fund was still at the funding application stage and there were a large number of funding proposals pending in LegCo, he did not think the Fund could be set up to finance the project in the near future. He proposed that the departments apply for funding via other means, e.g. through the minor works programmes implemented by DC for expeditious implementation of the project.

58. The Vice-Chairman Mr Randy YU said that the Lantau Conservation Fund and Lantau Tomorrow Vision were closely linked. The latter was a highly controversial project, and he was afraid that the Lantau Conservation Fund could not be set up in the near future. The project was estimated to cost no less than \$30 million, exceeding the maximum ceiling of minor works programmes. In the light of keen demand of villagers for treated water supply, and the project preparations already carried out by relevant departments, he objected to wait until the setting up of the Lantau Conservation Fund for funding application, and suggested making a funding request to LegCo for commencement of the project, with the amount reimbursed from the Fund after its establishment. Recently he noticed that LegCo members of different parties expressed support of livelihood issues, and he believed the funding application would gain support from different parties.

59. Mr Eric KWOK said the demand for treated water supply in Tai Long Tsuen was keen, but the establishment date of the Lantau Conservation Fund was not yet confirmed. Upon delivering the Budget Speech last year, the Government announced

that \$8 billion was reserved for financing district projects in 18 districts. He asked whether the departments could apply for funds to conduct the waterwork.

60. Mr Anthony LI said that for applying funds for district minor works (DMW), only 1 project was funded in each district according to the requirement for the use of DC funds, and IDC had earlier endorsed funding for the construction of Cheung Chau Community Hall.

61. Mr FU Sau-bong said the department noted the views of Members on the Lantau Conservation Fund and he pledged to relay their views to CEDD to follow up and to accord priority to the treated water supply project of Tai Long Tsuen after the establishment of the Fund. If approval was not granted eventually for setting up the Fund, the department would explore other possible options for implementation of the project. He, however, reiterated that the Lantau Conservation Fund was the most suitable funding source for the work project of providing treated water supply to Tai Long Tsuen. He hoped that Members would give tremendous support for CEDD to request funding from LegCo for setting up the Lantau Conservation Fund.

62. The Chairman said IDC supported the proposed option and hoped that the relevant departments would continue to explore other feasible measures to provide treated water for Tai Long Tsuen as soon as possible.

X. Question on prevention of dengue fever and anti-rodent work on Cheung Chau
(Paper IDC 32/2019)

63. The Chairman welcomed Ms LAI Wing-sau, Winsy, District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Islands) of Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), Dr LEE Chi-on, Clement, Senior School Development Officer (Islands)1 of Education Bureau (EDB) as well as Mr AU Sheung-man, Benjamin, Assistant District Officer (Islands)1 of Islands District Office (IsDO) to the meeting to respond to the question. The written reply of FEHD had been provided to Members for perusal.

64. Mr KWONG Koon-wan presented the question briefly.

65. Ms Winsey LAI presented the written reply briefly.

66. Dr Clement LEE said EDB was deeply concerned about the preventive and control measures of dengue fever (DF) and would continue to maintain close liaison with the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of Department of Health and provide the latest information about DF to schools. Advice for schools would be issued, where necessary and appropriate, to remind them to maintain strict environmental hygiene at all times, including cleaning and disinfecting thoroughly, prevent any possible spread of infection, stay vigilant and take necessary preventive measures against common communicable diseases as recommended by CHP. To prevent the spread of DF, EDB would remind schools to implement the recommended measures, including appointing

designated staff for mosquito prevention and control in school premises. Schools could adapt the template letter of EDB to alert parents to pay attention to children's personal and environmental hygiene and co-operate with schools to adopt proper preventive measures, like creating a clean environment at home and implementing precautionary measures to protect themselves from mosquito bite in light of the prevailing situation. No special measure was taken at this stage for providing extra resources to schools for epidemic prevention.

67. Mr Benjamin AU responded as follows:

- (a) District-led Actions Scheme (DAS) was conducted by IsDO to improve district hygiene (including rodent control) and strengthen mosquito control and grass cutting. Each year, IsDO requested Members to suggest sites other than priority sites for operations. After receiving the question raised by Mr KWONG, IsDO contacted him to obtain more details and confirm the exact location. The location was then covered in DAS for FEHD to follow up.
- (b) As FEHD stated in the written reply, besides mosquito control, anti-mosquito measures were taken by various relevant departments before the start of rainy season. It was learned that Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) had stepped up mosquito control on its own initiative at the recreation areas under its management, including clearing up stagnant water and removing dead leaves and garbage to avoid stagnant water accumulation and prevent mosquito breeding. Mosquito trapping devices and self-help kits with larvicides were placed in recreation areas such as Cheung Chau park, Cheung Chau Sports Ground and Cheung Chau Sports Centre with pest service companies spraying insecticides regularly to step up mosquito control. HD also deployed staff to patrol Cheung Kwai Estate and Nga Ning Court to clear up nullahs, catch pits and drainage facilities, place mosquito larvicides, conduct weeding, clear stagnant water and carry out fogging for killing adult mosquitoes, etc. especially during rainy season.
- (c) On rodent control and prevention, LCSD engaged pest service contractors regularly to carry out anti-rodent operations in the recreational areas near restaurants, including Cheung Chau Pak Tai Playground, Cheung Chau Praya Street sitting-out area, Tai Toi Yuen Garden and Cheung Po Tsai Cave Picnic Area. Anti-rodent operations were conducted by HD at Cheung Kwai Estate and Nga Ning Court, e.g. placing rodent traps and rat baits and sealing up holes, etc.
- (d) IsDO had contacted the secondary and primary schools in the district to enquire about their rodent control work. Most of the schools expressed that mosquito and rodent control had been stepped up and the result was

generally satisfactory. If schools were in need of assistance, IsDO would refer them to FEHD for assistance.

- (e) On publicity and education, IsDO would distribute to the secondary and primary schools and other institutions anti-rodent posters of FEHD for display to raise awareness of the local community. It would also send staff to participate in the promotion activities of FEHD in Islands District and engage DC members of all districts and stakeholders to give support and disseminate anti-rodent messages.

68. Mr KWONG Koon-wan expressed his views as follows:

- (a) It was known that stormwater drains were often found damaged during street cleaning by the staff of FEHD. He had enquired of the District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent of FEHD, who said the department would inform the relevant departments for conducting repairs. To his understanding, the works section of IsDO was responsible for repairing metal drain covers whereas the repairs of concrete drain covers were undertaken by HyD. Rats liked to hide in drains. He reminded the relevant departments to conduct repairs promptly after receiving the reports.
- (b) Lands Department spent considerable resources last year cleaning up a former government primary school site comprehensively but the place was soon overgrown with weeds again. He suggested EDB coordinate with the relevant departments for the grant of land and restoration and changing the land use to avoid a waste of valuable land resources.
- (c) Last year, panic buying of larvicides and adhesive mosquito patches broke out in Cheung Chau, with unscrupulous businessmen raising the prices of larvicides drastically from \$30-40 to \$70-80, aggravating the financial burden on schools. If similar incidents happened in the future, he hoped EDB would provide support for the schools affected.
- (d) Grass grew abundantly outside some school premises, making the fight against mosquitoes more difficult. According to the DAS report, although some school premises in Cheung Chau had been cleaned up, the grounds outside and adjacent slopes covered with grasslands provided breeding grounds for mosquitoes, undermining the effectiveness of mosquito control. The schools generally trimmed grass within 2-3 metres or so outside the school premises and then informed FEHD to apply fogging. He considered fogging attained certain results but the cutting of grass just about 2-3 metres outside the school premises was not satisfactory. The school premises fell within the jurisdiction of EDB but the outer areas were mostly within the ambit of DLOs and the schools had no authority to intervene. He hoped that all relevant

departments would step up mosquito prevention and control within their ambits.

- (e) Rats now appeared in areas where they were seldom found previously, e.g. the residential areas at Sun Hing Back Street and Lung Tsai Tsuen. He opined that as the temperature went up, the number of blackspots would be on an increase. He suggested the relevant departments deploy resources flexibly to step up rodent prevention and control.

69. Ms LEE Kwai-chun expressed her views as follows:

- (a) The wet weather and easy access to clean water made Cheung Chau a breeding ground for insects and mosquitoes. There were also reports of *Aedes albopictus*. To prevent the problem deteriorate during the rainy season, she proposed stepping up publicity to remind residents to clear away stagnant water in the rooftop, balcony and on the container dishes of potted plants to prevent the breeding of insects and mosquitoes.
- (b) The stormwater drains were frequently found damaged when the staff of FEHD cleaned the street. As damaged drains provided hiding places for rodents, she had written to request IsDO to take follow-up actions.

70. Mr Holden CHOW said that FEHD had sent staff to Fu Tung Estate to look for rat holes to tackle the rodent problem. He asked if rat holes were found at schools or other private places, what the department would do to ensure that the property owners or responsible persons would follow the department guidelines to address the rodent problem.

71. Ms Josephine TSANG expressed her views as follows:

- (a) Recently many Peng Chau residents complained that rodent infestation was serious and she had caught sight of rats at night, sometimes in places not identified as blackspots. It was understood that the rat bait used by outsourcing contractors of FEHD were different from that used by FEHD. She asked why different rat baits were used and requested the departments to use the most effective one.
- (b) Some Peng Chau residents did not want to make contact with the lids of rubbish bins, so they dumped rubbish next to the bins. To allow residents to dump rubbish conveniently, the cleaning workers did not replace the bin lid after putting a new rubbish bag in the bin. However, an open bin would cause serious hygiene problem. She had seen cats foraging the rubbish bins for food, making hordes of rats come running. He suggested FEHD tell the cleaning workers to replace the bin lids properly after changing rubbish bags and post notices at the waste collection centres appealing for residents to replace the lid properly and

not to feed stray dogs and cats. She also hoped that FEHD would assign staff to patrol and remind the cleaning workers and residents to comply with the guidelines.

72. Ms Winsey LAI made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) To tie in with DAS of IsDO, FEHD had deployed additional manpower to step up rodent prevention and control.
- (b) Rodent prevention and control at schools or private place should be conducted by the management offices or the responsible persons thereof. The department would provide technical assistance to relevant persons and visit the schools or establishments and offer advice at the invitation or on its own initiative under the circumstances. Technical support would be offered to schools outsourcing pest control services if so requested.
- (c) The department took note of the problem arising from some Peng Chau residents and cleansing workers failing to cover refuse bins properly as well as some measures proposed by Members. It would follow up and report to Members timely.

(Post-meeting note: FEHD would continue to step up the prevention and control of rodents in Peng Chau, including clearing refuse, elimination of hiding places of rats and placing of rat baits. Publicity and education would also be launched for residents and shop operators to raise their awareness of rodent prevention and control. The pesticides used by pest control staff of Islands District and outsourced contractors complied with the requirements. The department had also instructed cleansing workers to ensure the refuse bin being covered at all times, and displayed notices at conspicuous places of refuse collection points to remind residents to dispose refuse properly. The staff of FEHD would continue to monitor the hygiene condition and step up patrols to enhance rodent control measures and keep the environment clean.)

XII. Question on school places allocation in Tung Chung
(Paper IDC 34/2019)

73. The Chairman welcomed Ms KWAN Wai-yin, Katy, Senior School Development Officer (Islands)2 of EDB, Mr TONG Ping-tat, Senior Property Service Manager/HK Island & Islands Region of HD and Mr Richard SIU, Acting District Planning Officer/Sai Kung & Islands of PlanD to the meeting to respond to the question. The written reply of PlanD had been distributed to Members for perusal.

74. Mr Eric KWOK briefly presented the paper
75. Ms Katy KWAN made a consolidated response as follows:
- (a) Under the prevailing mechanism, the Government would reserve sites for public sector school and kindergarten development when planning large-scale residential developments having regard to the planned population intake and the needs for community services in accordance with the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines (HKPSG). When planning the secondary and primary school construction projects, EDB would take into account the future development of the area concerned, school-age population projections, actual number of students and school places at different levels, the current education policies and other factors affecting the demand for and supply of school places to decide whether to allocate a school premise to set up a new school or reprovision an existing school, and when to kick-start the works.
 - (b) The Government had reserved 2 sites for secondary and primary school development in Tung Chung Area 89, and the premises concerned were allocated to Hon Wah Education Organisation and Shu Yan Education Organisation via the School Allocation Exercise 2002. The former Education and Manpower Bureau proposed to suspend the school construction in Tung Chung Area 89 in 2005 according to the population projections. EDB had been closely monitoring the supply of school places by public sector secondary and primary schools in Islands District (including Tung Chung), school-age projections, the actual schooling situation and education policies for a review of the school construction projects. According to the latest projections of school place supply and demand in Tung Chung and the supply of and demand for existing public sector school places, the bureau expected that the demand for public sector secondary and primary school places in the district could still be met in the next few years. EDB would continue to monitor the population growth as well as the supply of and demand for school places in Tung Chung, and consider taking forward the school construction projects when necessary.
 - (c) HD would usually provide EDB with the details about the kindergarten premises in new housing estates 6 months prior to their completion. After being informed by HD that the kindergarten premises in the new housing estates were ready for allocation, EDB would assess whether school allocation exercises should be launched taking into account the demand for and supply of kindergarten places in the particular districts where the housing estates were situated and the Tertiary Planning Units concerned as well as other relevant factors.

- (d) According to the information provided by HD, there was a kindergarten each in Ying Tung Estate and Mun Tung Estate. The kindergarten premise in Ying Tung Estate had been allocated to the Salvation Army for kindergarten operation and the tenancy agreement was signed between it and HD in August 2018. The kindergarten was provisionally registered on 7 March 2019 and came into operation in early April. The kindergarten in Mun Tung Estate was allocated to Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association via the First School Allocation Exercise 2018. HD would follow up with the school sponsoring bodies on tenancy arrangements and the kindergarten was expected to be put into service in 2019/2020 academic year the earliest after registration and renovation.
- (e) EDB had been providing school placement assistance for students who had to transfer to a new school after residential changes by placing them in public sector schools with vacancies in the district of their residences. In principle, the bureau sought to place students in schools close to their residences having regard to factors including students' addresses, the supply of public sector school places in the district concerned, location of the schools and transport facilities available. Requests made by parents for special arrangements such as placing the students concerned in a school when they had a sibling at the school to facilitate escorting might be considered basing on the actual situation. The bureau had provided placement for around 200 students in Ying Tung Estate and over 400 students in Mun Tung Estate in schools in Tung Chung in 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 academic year.
- (f) EDB had been closely monitoring the resident intake of public housing estates, including Ying Tung Estate and Mun Tung Estate. It also distributed to new households leaflets through estate offices, service units of NGOs in the district and the 7 public sector primary schools in Tung Chung about schools in Islands District so they could have a better understanding of the schools in the district and the procedures of school transfer. The bureau also called upon the schools to make optimal use of school places by helping students change schools as soon as possible.

76. Mr TONG Ping-tat said that the department would study whether construction of kindergartens and relevant facilities was necessary when planning public housing estate developments having regard to the planned population in accordance with HKPSG. However, the public housing estates might not have sufficient space for construction of secondary and primary schools. For example, there were only kindergartens in Mun Tung Estate and Ying Tung Estate with the closest secondary and primary schools provided outside the housing estates. HD had distributed information of schools in Islands District during resident intake to inform residents in need of the school transfer procedures.

77. Mr Eric KWOK expressed his views as follows:

- (a) There were over 3 000 families in Mun Tung Estate. As the kindergarten operated by a Christian school sponsoring body would only be put into service in 2019 and there were no primary schools in the estate, school-age children had to go to school in Yat Tung Estate. Some parents said that they did not mind their children attending school in Yat Tung Estate, but were discontented with the long wait for reply after submitting information to EDB and uncertainty about the time of notification of school place allocation. Therefore, some residents only completed the intake formalities and collected the keys without moving into Mun Tung Estate. He hoped that EDB could notify parents which primary school their children were allocated to soon after the receipt of school transfer applications.
- (b) He opined that there was a serious shortfall in kindergarten places in Mun Tung Estate and Yat Tung Estate. He had earlier helped a student apply for admission to a kindergarten in the estate but the school replied that all the places were taken up so the student could only be placed on the waiting list. Other kindergartens in the vicinity were also fully enrolled. It was probable that parents might be hesitant about moving into Tung Chung as students might not be enrolled in kindergartens in the district. He said that HD started planning the construction of Ying Tung Estate and Mun Tung Estate as early as 3 or 4 years ago. Over 6 000 households had moved in. Assuming that there were school-age children in 20% of the families, the demand for school places in Tung Chung would increase by over 1 000. HD and EDB should have prepared in advance by taking the initiative to announce school place vacancies at different levels of all secondary and primary schools in the district and distribute a complete information kit to residents during flat intake. Relevant arrangements should have been made before the parents submitted admission applications for their children and made enquires and complaints to schools, the bureau, DC members' offices and the media. He hoped that the department could make improvements especially where the development for Areas 99 and 100 was concerned, and give prompt replies after receiving school transfer applications from residents in Mun Tung Estates to help ease the parents' concerns.

78. Mr Holden CHOW said that he had received requests for assistance in school admission application and school transfer from residents in Mun Tung Estate, and had discussed the matter with the staff of EDB. Since schools might be closed during summer holiday, he hoped that the bureau could decide on the number of places allocated to the schools concerned before holiday for arrangement for transfer assessments and student enrolment or notifying parents whether their children were allocated to a school in the district as soon as possible.

XIII. Question on improper use of Man Tung Road Park, Tung Chung
(Paper IDC 35/2019)

79. The Chairman welcomed Ms TAM Nga-ching, District Commander (Lantau) of HKPF and Mr CHAU Chun-wing, Tomy, District Leisure Manager (Islands) of LCSD to the meeting to respond to the question. The written reply of LCSD had been distributed to Members for perusal.

80. Mr Holden CHOW briefly presented the question.

81. Ms TAM Nga-ching said that the Police found there were 2 golf playing cases reported by the security guards at the site during a check of the record of 2019, but the persons suspected of playing golf had left by the time the Police arrived, so there were no prosecutions. The Police would surely take actions and institute prosecutions or provide assistance appropriately having regard to the circumstances after receiving reports from security guards or any other persons.

82. Mr Tomy CHAU said that the written reply of LCSD had been tabled for Members' perusal. He supplemented that a citizen was found performing an act resembling golf swing in early morning on the lawn of Man Tung Road Park, and was immediately advised to stop by the park staff. The citizen took the advice and showed cooperation. LCSD posted up notices at appropriate locations in the venue advising the public to be considerate and not to cause any nuisances to the others. LCSD also stepped up patrols in the park and would take appropriate actions when necessary.

83. Mr Holden CHOW expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He thanked LCSD and the Police for following up after Members lodged complaints. Some residents pointed out that the person concerned stopped his unauthorised acts as advised by LCSD staff but continued to do so when the staff was not present.
- (b) He noted that police officers had been deployed for enquiries. However, the person concerned was very shrewd and left before the Police arrived, therefore no prosecutions could be made. He enquired whether the Police could arrange staff to monitor in early morning or take photos for use as evidence for law enforcement. He was afraid that passers-by would be hurt by the swing motion and hoped that LCSD and the Police could continue to follow up on the matter.

84. The Chairman asked the Police and LCSD to continue to follow up.

XIV. Question on breakdown of MTR Airport Express Line and Tung Chung Line
(Paper IDC 36/2019)

85. The Chairman welcomed Mr Jeff CHAN, Operations Manager–AEL,TCL&DRL and Ms Annie LAM, PR Manager-External Affairs of MTRCL to the meeting to respond to the question. The written reply of MTRCL had been distributed to Members for perusal.

86. Mr Holden CHOW briefly presented the question.

87. Mr Jeff CHAN responded as follows:

- (a) A train running from Tung Chung Station to Hong Kong Station, affected by faulty equipment which supplied power between Tung Chung Station and Sunny Bay Station, stopped service when passing through a section of overhead line in Tai Ho Wan at around 12:10 a.m. on 24 March this year. The services of Airport Express Line and Tung Chung Line were disrupted. The staff immediately arranged the train to enter Sunny Bay Station and arrange detrainment. After investigation, it was discovered that there was a loose component on the overhead line of Sunny Bay Station near Tai Ho Wan which led to a power supply failure and affected the overhead line along the way.
- (b) After the incident, the train service between Hong Kong Station and Tsing Yi Station on Tung Chung Line was maintained at a 20-minute interval, while the service between Tsing Yi Station and Tung Chung Station and that of Airport Express Line was suspended. As the section involved was over 8 km in length, more time was required for repair works. Therefore, the train service between Hong Kong Station and Airport Station on Airport Express Line was suspended, and trains between Airport Station and Asia World-Expo ran at 15-minute intervals that morning. Meanwhile, the train service between Hong Kong Station and Sunny Bay Station on Tung Chung Line was maintained at a 10-minute interval and the service between Sunny Bay Station and Tung Chung Station was suspended for maintenance works. After emergency repair work, train services were gradually resumed starting from 10:00 a.m.
- (c) During train service disruption, MTRCL notified passengers the latest train service information via different channels, and deployed an additional 100 staff members to assist passengers at affected stations. It also arranged over 100 free shuttle buses to carry passengers to other locations and over 350 trips were operated in total. He said that the stations were in good order that day and thanked passengers and the public for their understanding and cooperation.

- (d) Preliminary investigations found that loosened parts of the section of overhead line concerned caused damage to the pantograph of a Tung Chung Line train, hence affecting the overhead line along the way. MTRCL had already sent the damaged overhead line parts to a laboratory for further examination.

88. Mr Holden CHOW expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He said that according to on-site observation, the stations were generally in good order on the day of the incident. He understood that the incident was caused by overhead line faults. However, quite a number of residents expressed concerns about the frequent occurrence of MTR incidents, which were mainly related to the signalling system recently. Although fewer incidents broke out on Tung Chung Line than East Rail Line, the residents were concerned that the cause of frequent occurrence of incidents was due to aging of system components.
- (b) He said that it was fortunate that the incident broke out on Sunday or it might lead to chaos and passenger discontent. He enquired the representative of MTRCL whether there was any aging found on overhead line equipment concerned, and whether MTRCL would take this opportunity to replace the equipment or take other measures as appropriate to prevent recurrence of similar incidents.

89. Mr Bill TANG expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He said that the incident would have caused inconvenience to residents, airport staff and passengers travelling to and from the airport and caused other problems if it occurred on weekdays. The recent incidents related to the signalling system all occurred during non-service hours because MTRCL conducted tests on the signalling system after the service hours. However, since mechanical faults were the reason for the incident this time, he enquired of MTRCL whether similar incidents only occurred during non-traffic hours.
- (b) He noted that MTRCL had formulated a timetable for signalling system replacement for all lines, and the replacement works on East Rail Line and Tsuen Wan Line would take place in 2019. He asked MTRCL whether the replacement of signalling system on East Rail Line had commenced and whether it would give rise to more incidents after works commencement.
- (c) Tung Chung Line and Airport Express Line shared tracks and would have to cope with 200 000 to 300 000 people in Tung Chung and the increasing passenger flow after completion of the third runway at the

airport. Regarding the provision of an overrun tunnel between Tung Chung Line and Airport Express Line mentioned by MTRCL earlier, he enquired about the progress and whether the work was related to the incident.

90. Mr Eric KWOK said that the population of Tung Chung was growing rapidly and there were already around 110 000 residents. The population would surge to around 300 000 after completion of the Tung Chung New Town Extension project 6 or 7 years later. He said that only one train could operate on each track every 3 minutes 15 seconds on the Tsing Ma Bridge section, and higher frequency would impose pressure on the traffic loading of the bridge. With the rapid increase in the population of Tung Chung and the growth in the number of tourists brought by HZMB as well as the future third runway at the airport, it was necessary to increase train frequency to divert passengers. He enquired how MTRCL would overcome the frequency constraints of the Tsing Ma Bridge section.

91. Ms Annie LAM said that the incident was purely caused by failure of the overhead line equipment, completely unrelated to the replacement of signalling system. No tests had been conducted on the signalling system of Tung Chung Line. She said that after the incident of the signalling system testing on Tsuen Wan Line on 18 March 2019, MTRCL had suspended all tests of the new signalling system.

92. Mr Jeff CHAN responded as follows:

- (a) Consisting of over 10 000 parts, Tung Chung Line and Airport Express Line provides reliable train service for 19 hours consecutively every day. He said that the incident was not related to the signalling system and just happened to occur near the end of the train traffic hour. As for maintenance, MTRCL implements stringent measures to monitor the condition of railway parts, including conducting reviews of maintenance work according to risk-based principles regarding critical features of the parts.
- (b) The overhead line equipment concerned was checked once a year, and passed its inspection in February this year. No problems were found at that time. MTRCL was extremely concerned about the incident and had sent the parts involved to the laboratory for detailed examination. The Engineering team would carry out a review to enhance train service when relevant examination results are available

93. Mr Bill TANG said that the parts of Tung Chung Line might be aging. As the incident resulted in suspension for longer period and larger areas affected, he enquired whether it was the first time Tung Chung Line suspended service due to malfunctioning parts. Since Tung Chung Line had been in operation for over 20 years, MTRCL should step up inspection and part replacement.

94. Mr Eric KWOK hoped that MTRCL could respond to his questions after checking relevant information if a reply could not be given at the meeting. He opined that constraints of the Tsing Ma Bridge section had to be removed to meet the increasing demand for train services arising from rapid population growth in Tung Chung and the commissioning of a mass transit system.

95. Ms Annie LAM responded as follows:

- (a) She noted the question of Mr Bill TANG and would give a reply after checking the information. She emphasised that the maintenance team of MTRCL inspected the parts with sophisticated devices every 1 to 3 months according to the conditions of the overhead line of different railway lines, and conducted close-up inspections of overhead lines using overhead line inspection vehicles every 1 to 2 years. MTRCL would continue to conduct regular inspections and replace parts of overhead lines where necessary.
- (b) She noted the question of Mr Eric KWOK and would give a response after checking the information. She said that after the service adjustment in early 2018, MTRCL had evened out the waiting time and enhanced train frequencies of Tung Chung Station and Tsing Yi Station so passengers could grasp the train departure time more easily. Passengers could also plan their trip in advance by getting real-time train departure information via the Service Information Panels at station concourses or through the MTR Mobile app. In addition, MTRCL would make adjustments in the light of passenger demand when practicable, such as arranging additional trains to ease crowding to busy sections in the morning peak.

(Mr Bill TANG left the meeting at around 4:35 p.m.)

XV. Statement for opposing Lantau Tomorrow Vision plan of the Government
(Paper IDC 37/2019)

96. The Chairman said that DEVB had provided a written reply for Members' perusal.

97. Ms Amy YUNG presented the statement.

98. Mr WONG Man-hon said that apart from the project estimates, the information provided by the Government at the last meeting basically covered the major aspects such as housing and transport, and DC had passed the motion supporting the early commencement of the study concerned. The DC had made its stance clear and there was no need for further discussion.

99. The Chairman said that he respected the statement made by Ms Amy YUNG.

100. Ms Amy YUNG said that it was a statement, not a discussion item and she only wanted to put the statement on record.

XVI. Question on implementation of waste recycling programme by Environmental Protection Department in Peng Chau
(Paper IDC 38/2019)

101. The Chairman welcomed Mr CHAN Yip-wai, Edward, Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Waste Management Policy)⁵ and Mr LAI Kwok-wai, David, Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Waste Management Policy)⁶ of Environmental Protection Department (EPD) to the meeting to respond to the paper.

102. Mr Ken WONG briefly presented the paper.

103. Mr Edward CHAN said that the Pilot Community Recycling Programme in Islands District jointly implemented by EPD and FEHD ended on 30 September 2018. The collection service of the 38 collection points under the programme had been taken over by the Government appointed Glass Management Contractor which would continue collecting glass bottles and used electrical appliances for the residents on Peng Chau free of charge with effect from 1 October 2018. Although some interface issues cropped up during the initial period after the handover, the contractor subsequently overhauled the collection arrangement and the glass bottle collection service on Peng Chau resumed normal. The contractor also closely monitored the situation of various collection points, including environmental hygiene, amount of glass bottles collected and the feedback from local residents. The contractor would, according to actual need, increase the glass bottle collection points and the collection frequency. There were currently 6 collection points in Peng Chau, which were located respectively at Wing Hing Street Refuse Collection Point (RCP), Wing On Back Street, in front of RCP opposite to 19C Nam Wan, the open area near Peng Chau Ferry Pier, as well as in front of Peng Chau Clinic and Chi Yan Street Playground. The contractor inspected the collection points and provided collection service everyday to ensure that environmental hygiene was maintained. Recycling bins filled up with glass bottles would be delivered to the transfer facilities on the island. Moreover, the Government would review with the contractor the operation and arrangement of service as appropriate, and closely monitor the service delivered to ensure service quality.

104. Mr David LAI explained the Producer Responsibility Scheme on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) (WPRS) as follows:

- (a) WPRS came into effect on 1 August 2018. A seller was required to arrange for its customer a statutory free removal service to collect a used equipment of the same class abandoned by the customer. If a seller opted for the statutory free removal service provided by the operator of

the Government's WEEE·PARK, the operator would, after receipt of a service request from the seller, collect the waste equipment 3 working days from the date of sales as requested by the customer. Since implementation of the scheme, over 99.9% of the service of the operator met the requirement. Moreover, members of the public who did not purchase new equipment but required WEEE removal service might call the Government's recycling hotline (2676 8888) for making appointment for the door-to-door removal service. Upon receipt of booking, the operator would arrange removal service for the used equipment in about 7 working days. After resolving the teething issues during the initial operation, the scheme had been operating smoothly in general.

- (b) The department had an established mechanism in place to monitor the performance of the operator, including whether the operator managed to remove the used equipment at the scheduled time. The department would conduct regular inspection to the facility to monitor the operator's performance, etc. It would also monitor its waste intake figure to ensure that the operator met the performance requirement. If a seller opted for the statutory free removal service provided by the operator, the door-to-door removal service should be arranged 3 working days from the date of sales as per customer's request; and if no new electrical equipment was purchased, removal of the used equipment might be arranged in about 7 working days.
- (c) Where the performance of operator was found unsatisfactory, members of the public or DC members might report the case to the Government's recycling hotline or EPD's hotline. The department would monitor the performance of the operator and take follow-up actions as appropriate.

105. Mr KWONG Koon-wan expressed his views as follows:

- (a) Given that the Government devoted substantial resources to the recycling drive and relevant government departments had gained a lot of similar experience, the programme should have been implemented smoothly, yet the result was unsatisfactory. The recycling problem facing Peng Chau also occurred on Cheung Chau. The contractor collected the glass containers at several days' interval or only upon receipt of complaints from Members, leaving the abandoned glass bottles on the street for days. Refuse dumping at the collection points also affected the contractor collecting glass bottles. Large amount of glass bottles were abandoned on Cheung Chau due to the large number of restaurants. He opined that glass bottles had to be collected daily, and accumulation for days would cause road obstruction. Glass bottles not washed would even give off bad smell. He hoped that the department would step up monitoring.

- (b) On collection of used clothing, he had discussed with Greenpeace which however indicated that it was not familiar with the operation of the recycling programme and thus unable to make any recommendations on improvement. He had made recommendations to Greenpeace to reduce transportation cost but no reply was received after several weeks. He considered that the proposals were worthy of consideration since they were more cost-effective and efficient than the existing practice, but the environmental groups might be unable to make a resolute decision due to their own administrative arrangements.
- (c) Used clothes or glass bottles would cause obstruction if they were only collected once for days or every 2 weeks. During the rainy season, if the abandoned used clothes were not collected timely, they would get wet and could not be recycled. He requested that before the implementation of the recycling programme, the department discussed with Members and provided the details and the entire recycling workflow, instead of going ahead with the programme without completing the consultation and, when problems arose, enquiring of Members how to perform the recycling process more smoothly or liaise with restaurants on waste recycling. He hoped that the department would seriously consider matters concerning glass bottle recycling and resolve them as soon as possible. Since abandoned glass bottles would breed mosquitoes and cause odour nuisance when the beer or soft drink inside flowed onto the street, FEHD would have to arrange staff to clean the street, thus wasting time and resources. He hoped that the questions raised would be conducive to recycling.

106. Ms LEE Kwai-chun expressed her views as follows:

- (a) Many residents reflected that the abandoned glass bottles gave off bad smell, and the contractor left the glass bottles collected at the roadside, with the broken bottles posing a safety hazard to residents. She hoped that EPD would monitor the situation effectively.
- (b) Regarding the collection of used clothes, residents left the used clothes at a corner of the market which was not a suitable place due to accumulation of stagnant water. She said that at present the recycling activities were regularly conducted by voluntary organisations and waste recyclers at one single location, which she considered worthwhile for the department to follow suit as the environment was cleaner and the used clothes could be collected by the contractor centrally at one location and would not be left uncollected for a long time and dampened with the quality compromised. She opined that the department should review the effectiveness of the recycling programme to ensure that its implementation would not be meaningless.

107. Mr Eric KWOK expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He learnt that some waste management and recycling companies delivered the glass bottles collected to the recycling workshop for washing and separation by type. The washed glass bottles would be transported to Vietnam and Cambodia for sale. Glass was valuable and its disposal at landfills would not only waste resources but also affect the environment. He opined that the Government should not outsource the service to consortia or leading contractors only. He learnt that an outsourced contractor broke the glass containers into pieces immediately after collection and disposed of them at landfills. Representative of EPD just said that the department would monitor relevant data, but he felt that it would be difficult to detect breaches simply from the data. He considered that the department should conduct undercover site visits.
- (b) He opined that the Government should relax the policies to allow environmental groups and waste management and recycling companies to collect waste glass containers rather than outsourcing to only large companies to enable them to receive government subsidies. By selling glass overseas, small waste management and recycling companies could make earnings which could offset their operational expenses and also stimulate the economy of Hong Kong.
- (c) He learnt that some countries such as Germany launched incentive schemes, under which citizens could earn reward points by putting into recycling machines waste glass containers and redeem the points on stored value cards for gifts. He considered that the Government could draw reference and introduce such schemes.

108. Ms Josephine TSANG expressed her views as follows:

- (a) Representative of EPD said that glass bottle recycling in Islands District was generally in normal operation. She asked the department to explain in detail why the collection of glass bottles only once a week was deemed normal. At some places where large quantities of beer bottles and soft drink bottles were accumulated, cockroaches and mosquitoes were attracted causing environmental problems.
- (b) Regarding WPRS, she purchased a washing machine and a refrigerator more than 2 months ago but the seller had been slow in arranging staff to collect the used electrical appliances. She was then forced to dispose of them herself and found that they remained abandoned at Peng Chau to date. She hoped that the department would follow up on environmental protection to ensure the work was performed properly.

109. Mr Ken WONG expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He opined that the prevailing policy on glass bottle and used clothing recycling was less effective than the one the department embarked in collaboration with FEHD previously. Before 1 October 2018, recyclables were collected daily. He did not understand why the department changed the outsourcing terms and did not require the contractor to perform collection service daily. He indicated that he had repeatedly lodged complaints in this regard but no solution was provided to date.
- (b) According to representative of the department, the data indicated that the amount of wastes collected each time was equal to the amount of daily collection. However, the wastes were collected in one go after accumulation for a month, which affected the environmental hygiene of the district. He hoped that the department would reply why the contractor was not required to perform collection daily as well as the interval for waste collections.
- (c) Regarding WPRS, he said that during the initial period the contractor arranged staff for collection, but later due to problems of transportation and remoteness, the contractor did not perform daily collection and even disposed of wastes indiscriminately on the island. Since there was a clear division of responsibilities between EPD and FEHD, the latter could not assist in waste disposal. The wastes could now only be disposed of at the RCP at the rear of Wing On Street, and the contractor thus moved all abandoned used electrical appliances there. A month ago, a number of residents complained to Ms Josephine TSANG that over 20 pieces of abandoned used electrical appliances were accumulated at the said location. Though they had now been removed, over 10 other pieces of used electrical appliances were heaped thereat again.
- (d) He said that while the Government injected a large amount of money and resources to implement the recycling programme, the contractor failed to perform collection work daily and only hired part-timers to work for 2 days a month, with the Government taking the blame. Since the transport facilities in urban areas were more comprehensive than those of the outlying islands and thus less time would be required for delivery of used electrical appliances, the yardstick used for urban areas could not apply to Islands District. The department had no policy in place to address the accumulation of used electrical appliances at RCP. He questioned how the department would monitor the contractor as its representative said it would, and proposed that the programme be taken over by FEHD to ensure that collection would be performed daily.

110. Mr CHAN Lin-wai noted that the recycling at Islands District was undertaken by the same contractor and queried how one contractor could handle the recycling work

of various outlying islands at the same time, thus the problem of waste accumulation arose. The department should review thoroughly the prevailing policies, such as by employing sufficient manpower to handle the wastes on each island.

111. Ms YU Lai-fan said that since EPD was now fully responsible for the recycling of WEEE and glass bottles, she asked the department to arrange staff to inspect Islands District for monitoring the contractor effectively. Glass bottles were left everywhere on Lamma Island, obstructing the accesses and leading to infestation of mosquitoes and rats. She requested the department to conduct patrols and honour its performance pledge.

112. Mr Edward CHAN responded as follows:

- (a) EPD noted the problem concerning glass bottle recycling on Cheung Chau and pledged to explore solutions with the contractor to address the situation of Cheung Chau.
- (b) As Mr Eric KWOK had just said, the glass bottles collected would be processed by the department's contractor and then the processed recyclable glass material would be delivered to the manufacturers for production of cement and eco-paving blocks and to specified storage facilities of EPD for use as filling in works locally. The department was exploring the possibility of exporting processed recyclable glass material and would closely monitor the recycling on Peng Chau.

113. Mr David LAI responded as follows:

- (a) Regarding WPRS, he added that EPD's WEEE·PARK operator would provide door-to-door collection service to members of the public, who might call the recycling hotline when necessary. If a seller failed to provide the statutory removal service as requested by the customer, it might commit an offence and the public could report the matter to EPD.
- (b) Regarding the issue of WEEE disposed of remained at recycling station for days, WEEE was collected by FEHD or the glass management contractor and delivered to WEEE·PARK at Tuen Mun for processing. The department would closely liaise with FEHD and the glass management contractor for arranging the processing and delivery of WEEE.

114. The Chairman asked the department to step up monitoring of recycling work.

(Mr Holden CHOW left the meeting at around 4:45 p.m.)

XVII. Question on construction of public market in Tung Chung Area 6 and provision of temporary market
(Paper IDC 39/2019)

115. The Chairman said a written reply had been provided by the Food and Health Bureau (FHB) and FEHD for Members' perusal.

116. Mr Eric KWOK briefly presented the question.

117. Mr Eric KWOK said that the written reply of FHB and FEHD failed to respond to the question. He asked the Secretariat to issue a letter to request FHB and FEHD to explain in detail before the end of current term of DC the ancillary facilities, mode of operation, number of stalls and the market design schedule of the public market in Tung Chung Area 6 for Members' reference.

118. The Chairman asked the Secretariat to follow up on Mr Eric KWOK's request.

XVIII. Marine Port District Action Plan 2019
(Paper IDC 23/2019)

119. The Chairman welcomed Mr LAU Cheng-fung, District Commander (Marine Port District) of HKPF to the meeting to present the paper.

120. Mr LAU Cheng-fung briefly presented the paper.

121. Mr CHAN Lin-wai said that Lamma Island, a diverse community, was home to people of 15 different nationalities. The Police maintained liaison with these people of different nationalities and the "One-Village-One-Cop" arrangement implemented over the years had yielded results. He hoped that the arrangement would continue.

122. Mr Eric KWOK enquired, regarding the efforts for supporting maritime environmental protection, whether the Police would exchange intelligence and maintain close communication with the Mainland border security units apart from adopting a multi-agency approach to combat illegal fishing and trawling activities involving destructive methods. He learnt that Mainland vessels were found carrying out illegal fishing activities in South Lantau.

123. Mr LAU Cheng-fung responded that the "One-Village-One-Cop" arrangement had been effective and would be implemented continuously. As for combating illegal fishing activities, the Police would employ different means, which included exchanging intelligence and joint enforcement actions with Mainland authorities, as well as joint operations with other government departments.

124. Ms LEE Kwai-chun appreciated the work of the Police and recognised the efforts made by Senior Police Call and Junior Police Call in assisting in disseminating crime messages to raise public alertness.

125. Mr LAU Cheng-fung said that the Police attached importance to maintaining communication. Apart from maintaining close liaison with local residents and people of other nationalities, the Police disseminated crime messages via different networks to increase public awareness on crime prevention to reduce crimes.

126. Mr KWONG Koon-wan said that he was informed by fishermen that illegal trawling activities involving local fishing vessels from Tuen Mun Typhoon Shelter were found in the waters off Shek Kwu Chau. He was worried that such illegal activities would continue before the moratorium period, and hoped that the Police would map out systematic strategy and allocate resources to, for example, acquire vessel arrest systems to crack down on such activities.

127. Mr LAU Cheng-fung responded that the Marine Region would continue to take enforcement actions proactively and adopt various measures such as vessel arrest systems to crack down on illegal fishing activities.

XIX. Lantau District Action Plan 2019
(Paper IDC 24/2019)

128. The Chairman welcomed Ms TAM Nga-ching, District Commander (Lantau), New Territories South Regional Headquarters Lantau District of HKPF to the meeting to present the paper.

129. Ms TAM Nga-ching briefly presented the paper.

130. Mr Eric KWOK said that the paper mentioned understanding and caring for the youth. He pointed out that the problem of young night drifters in Yat Tung Estate was serious. The young people always hanged out at the rooftops of the estate and pitches, causing nuisance. He hoped that where resources permitted, the Police could step up patrol during long holidays, in particular at midnight, to show its concern over the young people and reduce nuisance that might be caused to residents. Moreover, South Lantau was a restricted area but Mainland drivers entered the restricted roads in South Lantau via HZMB. He hoped that the police officers stationed at HZMB would explain to the tourists that South Lantau was a restricted area and vehicles had to obtain an entry permit.

131. Ms TAM Nga-ching said that the Police was concerned over the youth problem in Yat Tung Estate and had time and again discussed the issue with various stakeholders. Where police manpower permitted, they would implement outreach programmes and adopt a soft approach to prevent the youngsters from going astray.

As for the traffic problem in South Lantau, the Police would step up publicity and issue gentle reminders to drivers.

132. The Vice-Chairman Mr Randy YU was appreciative of the efficiency of the 2 police districts. While the crime rate of Islands District was kept at a low level, there was a significant increase in the number of deception cases over the past year. He urged the offices of DC Members, their assistants and volunteers to help promote anti-deception messages to prevent residents from being deceived.

133. Ms Josephine TSANG appreciated that the Police proactively engaged in youth service and allowed frontline officers to gain a better understanding of crime trends. She was aware that the Police set up a task force with 24-hour manning to provide assistance to persons in need.

XX. Progress on District-led Actions Scheme
(Paper IDC 40/2019)

134. The Chairman welcomed Mr AU Sheung-man, Benjamin, Assistant District Officer (Islands)1 of IsDO to the meeting to present the paper.

135. Mr Benjamin AU briefly presented the paper.

136. Mr Anthony LI added that “improvement of environmental hygiene in the district” under DAS covered anti-rodent work. Members were welcome to provide more information about target areas for anti-rodent operations and relevant education campaigns implemented by FEHD. He also hoped that Members would assist in disseminating important messages on rodent prevention and control.

137. Members noted and endorsed the proposal set out in the paper.

XXI. Report on the Work of the Islands District Management Committee (March 2019)
(Paper IDC 41/2019)

138. Members noted and endorsed the above paper.

XXII. Reports on the Work of the IDC Committees and its Working Group
(Papers IDC 42-46/2019)

139. Members noted and endorsed the above papers.

140. The Chairman said that the Report on the Duty Visit to Kunming had been uploaded to IDC website. Since the Working Group on Duty Visit had finished the work, he announced that the working group was disbanded.

XXIII. Allocation of DC funds

(i) Up-to-date Financial Position on the Use of DC Funds
(Paper IDC 47/2019)

141. The Secretary reported that as informed by Home Affairs Department, the allocation for Community Involvement Projects of IDC in 2019/2020 maintained at \$19,590,000.

142. Ms Winnie YEUNG reported that the allocation for DMWs for this year was \$31,688,000.

143. Members noted and endorsed the above paper and proposal.

(ii) Approval for Using DC Funds by circulation from 1 February to 31 March 2019
(Paper IDC 48/2019)

144. Members noted the paper.

XXIV. Date of Next Meeting

145. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m. The next meeting would be held at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, 24 June 2019.

-End-