

(Translation)

Islands District Council
Minutes of Meeting of the
Community Affairs, Culture and Recreation Committee

Date : 4 May 2020 (Monday)
Time : 10:30 a.m.
Venue : Islands District Council Conference Room

Present

Mr WONG Man-hon (Chairman)	
Ms LAU Shun-ting (Vice-Chairman)	
Mr YU Hon-kwan, Randy, MH, JP	
Mr CHOW Yuk-tong, SBS, MH	(Left at around 2:00 p.m.)
Mr YUNG Chi-ming, BBS, MH	
Mr CHAN Lin-wai, MH	
Mr WONG Hon-kuen, Ken	(Left at around 6:15 p.m.)
Mr HO Chun-fai	
Mr HO Siu-kei	
Ms WONG Chau-ping	
Ms TSANG Sau-ho, Josephine	(Arrived at around 11:00 a.m.)
Ms YUNG Wing-sheung, Amy	
Mr KWOK Ping, Eric	
Mr TSUI Sang-hung, Sammy	(Arrived at around 11:20 a.m.)
Mr FONG Lung-fei	
Mr LEE Ka-ho	
Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho	
Mr WONG Chun-yeung	

Attendance by Invitation

Mr LEUNG Chung-ping, Alpha	Regional Officer (Hong Kong Island), Independent Commission Against Corruption
Dr Michael WONG	Chief Manager, Kowloon West Cluster/Princess Margaret Hospital Deputy Hospital Chief Executive (Operations)/ North Lantau Hospital Deputy Hospital Chief Executive, Hospital Authority
Mr AU Kwok-ping	Divisional Officer (Marine)1, Fire Services Department
Mr Simon Paul SOUTHGATE	Deputy District Commander of Lantau District, Hong Kong Police Force
Mr OR Ching-yan, Vincent	Divisional Commander of Lantau North Division, Hong Kong Police Force
Mr YAN Man-chi, Robin	Property Service Manager/Service (Hong Kong Island & Islands)3, Housing Department
Mr HAU Chi-leung, Arnold	Property Service Manager/Service (Hong Kong Island & Islands)4, Housing Department

Ms NG Wei-wan, Vivian	Senior Social Security Officer (Central Western/Southern/Islands), Social Welfare Department
Miss CHOW Wing-man	Manager (Community Relations), Link Asset Management Limited
Mr LAW Wing-pui	Senior Officer (Community Relations), Link Asset Management Limited

In Attendance

Mr LI Ho, Thomas	Assistant District Officer (Islands)1, Islands District Office
Ms CHAN Sok-fong, Cherry	Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Islands, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms KWOK Lai-kuen, Elaine	Senior Librarian (Islands), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms YUEN Chi-ling, Margaret	Manager (New Territories South) Marketing & District Activities, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr WONG Kin-sun	Senior Community Relations Officer (Hong Kong West/Islands), Independent Commission Against Corruption
Ms KWAN Wai-yin, Katy	Senior School Development Officer (Islands)2, Education Bureau
Mr WONG Chi-leung	Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Central Western/Southern/Islands)2, Social Welfare Department
Ms YUEN Wai-kwan	Representative, Association of School Heads of Islands District
Ms CHOI Kwok-por	Representative, Hong Kong Islands Cultural & Art Association

Secretary

Miss LAM Po-yan, Eloisa	Executive Officer (District Council)1, Islands District Office
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Welcoming Remarks

The Chairman welcomed representatives of government departments and organisations as well as Members to the meeting and introduced the following department representative who attended the meeting:

- (a) Ms YUEN Chi-ling, Margaret, Manager (New Territories South) Marketing & District Activities of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), who stood in for Ms WONG Fan-ni, Jasmine.

I. **Confirmation of the Minutes of Meeting held on 18.3.2020**

- 2. The Chairman said that the above minutes had incorporated the amendments proposed by government departments and organisations and had been distributed to Members for perusal prior to the meeting.
- 3. The captioned minutes were confirmed unanimously without amendments.

II. Work Plan 2020/21 of ICAC Regional Office (Hong Kong West/Islands)
(Paper CACRC 15/2020)

4. The Chairman welcomed Mr LEUNG Chung-ping, Alpha, Regional Officer (Hong Kong Island), and Mr WONG Kin-sun, Senior Community Relations Officer (Hong Kong West/Islands) of the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) to the meeting to present the paper.

5. Mr Alpha LEUNG briefly presented the paper.

6. Ms Amy YUNG expressed her views as follows:

(a) She thanked ICAC for the clear presentation on the percentage of corruption complaints in the private sector by industry. She also requested ICAC to provide information on the complaints concerning government departments for reference.

(b) As recently reported in the media, a senior police officer was suspected of illegally occupying government land and carrying out unauthorised building works since 2014. Despite complaints lodged to departments such as the Lands Department (LandsD), the Buildings Department (BD) and ICAC, response was given only after the media had given the recent coverage on it. Upon receipt of a complaint, ICAC would generally not disclose the way of handling and investigation result unless the complaint was substantiated, but the success rate was low. What was worrying was that ICAC might have received the above complaints in 2014 and took no action until the case had recently come to light. She suggested ICAC form a task force to examine the follow-up action of the case over the past five years. She hoped that ICAC would not be affected by political considerations and continue to operate independently so that its good reputation which had been built up over the years would not be tarnished by the incident.

(c) On property management and corruption prevention, ICAC had been focusing on conducting publicity activities for owners' corporations (OCs) and mutual aid committees (MACs) while neglecting owner's committees (OComms). She hoped that ICAC would launch publicity campaigns and step up education for buildings which could not form an OC for the time being.

7. Mr Eric KWOK thanked ICAC for deploying staff to public housing estates (PHEs) in Islands District such as Yat Tung Estate last year to promote the message of corruption prevention and clean election to MACs, and hoped that ICAC would carry out the relevant publicity work in the district again this year. He believed that the issue of vote-rigging was serious in PHEs, especially in newly completed estates (such as Mun Tung Estate where resident intake took place last year). During the election period, some residents received letters of unknown origin which asked the recipients to confirm their identity as electors. He advised these residents to send the letters to the

Electoral Affairs Commission for verification. To look squarely at the issue of vote-rigging, he suggested ICAC commission the Innovation and Technology Bureau (ITB) to develop an application for matching the database on the registers of electors with the particulars of residents of PHEs of the Housing Department (HD), so as to confirm the identity of electors.

8. Mr LEE Ka-ho thanked ICAC for the detailed presentation. He indicated that, as the paper mentioned, the people of Hong Kong attached great importance to integrity. However, it was noted that the scoring of ICAC ranked eighth among the nine disciplinary forces in a public opinion survey conducted last year. The ranking of ICAC was only above that of the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF), reflecting that the performance of ICAC did not meet public expectations. Being in support of the education work mentioned in the paper, he pointed out that separation of powers was a core value of Hong Kong and that fairness and integrity constituted the cornerstone for maintaining the separation of powers. He expected that ICAC could uphold the principle of independent operation without any interference so that the public confidence in ICAC could be restored.

9. Mr Alpha LEUNG made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) ICAC would not comment on individual cases. Regarding corruption complaints concerning government departments, ICAC observed that the percentage was relatively higher for departments which had more direct contact with members of the public.
- (b) Regarding the independence of ICAC, ICAC had all along been operating independently since its establishment in 1974. According to the Independent Commission Against Corruption Ordinance, it was committed to fighting corruption through a three-pronged approach of law enforcement, prevention and education, and carrying out the duties impartially without favour or fear. ICAC had always strictly enforced the law and investigate corruption cases vigorously, regardless of the background, social status and identity of the persons involved.
- (c) Regarding the investigation of corruption cases, ICAC timely sought advice from the Department of Justice and was overseen by the Operations Review Committee (ORC), which received information about all complaints of corruption made to ICAC and the manner in which they were handled, and gave advice.
- (d) Understanding that property management was an important social and livelihood issue, ICAC did not only serve OCs but also various stakeholders including OComms. Should they have any doubts or enquiries, they might call ICAC's Regional Offices or the Integrity Building Management Enquiry Hotline.
- (e) In view of the establishment of the Property Management Services Authority (PMSA) by the Government for enhancement of the ability and

integrity of property management companies (PMCs) and practitioners, ICAC would strengthen collaboration with PMSA such as proposing to the latter inclusion of corruption prevention and integrity elements in the training courses.

- (f) Regarding the issue of vote-rigging, ICAC attached great importance to clean election and would make every effort to investigate and follow up on complaints upon receipt. ICAC's Corruption Prevention Department collected and studied information relating to past elections, and advised the government on improvements to voter registration, candidature at elections, voting and even the entire process of election with a view to mitigating the problem of corrupt and illegal conducts at elections. ICAC was also exploring with the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) stepping up education for its staff on clean election to ensure clean and fair elections.
- (g) Regarding the ranking of ICAC in other public opinion surveys, it was not appropriate to give comment because different institutions adopted different assessment criteria. As revealed in the ICAC Annual Survey 2019, over 96% of the respondents indicated that ICAC deserved their support. It was noted that the Hong Kong people attached great importance to the culture of probity in society and supported the work of ICAC.

10. Mr Eric KWOK reiterated that ICAC should collaborate with ITB to develop an application for matching the registered address of electors with the address of PHE residents, thereby identifying cases of voter registration with false PHE address to combat vote-rigging.

11. Ms Amy YUNG held that integrity of public officials was of utmost importance, so government officials and Members should make declaration of interests in a prudent manner. She said that as some civil servants joined the private sector immediately after they had left the service, their personal integrity was often being questioned. She expected that ICAC would draw up clear guidelines on deferred benefits for government officials after leaving Government service.

12. Mr FONG Lung-fei enquired about the issue of gift giving. He found that some community organisations and MACs often gave out gifts to the people, especially during the period of elections. He enquired of ICAC whether such act involved transfer of benefits. Some residents had asked him whether he would give out gifts, and he had no idea if it was unlawful to offer gifts in the capacity of a District Council (DC) Member. He opined that the voting intention of electors might be affected by personal interests, thus hoping that ICAC would step up district publicity work to increase awareness of corruption prevention and maintain clean elections in Hong Kong.

13. Ms WONG Chau-ping proposed that ICAC should not only launch publicity in urban areas but also step up efforts in disseminating the message of anti-corruption in rural areas.

14. Mr WONG Chun-yeung said that, as disclosed by media reports, during the period of 2019 District Council Election (DCE), some candidates claimed that they would donate part of their remunerations if they were elected. He enquired whether such conduct involved election bribery, and requested the ICAC representative to explain the definition of bribery at elections. He also enquired whether ICAC had collaborated with the Home Affairs Department (HAD) to regularly update the address of electors and delete the information of deceased electors. According to some hearsay information circulating on the Internet, the information of deceased electors and electors who had changed their address were kept in government buildings. However, the information was stolen and used for voting purpose in every DCE. He enquired whether ICAC had conducted investigation to such vote-rigging incidents.

15. Mr Alpha LEUNG made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) ICAC understood that the problem of vote-rigging was a concern in the community. It would promote anti-vote-rigging message through different channels.
- (b) Regarding the definition of election bribery, pursuant to the Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance, a person engaged in corrupt conduct at an election if the person corruptly offered an advantage to another person as an inducement or a reward for the other person to stand, or not to stand, as a candidate at the election; to vote, or not to vote, at the election for a particular candidate or particular candidates; or not to vote at the election.
- (c) ICAC considered it necessary to entrench the culture of probity at elections, and would therefore carry out a series of education initiatives on corruption prevention, such as assisting candidates, their electioneering teams and electors in understanding the importance of keeping elections clean, and the requirement of the relevant legislation. ICAC would handle complaints about bribery in a public election according to the law, but would not comment on individual incidents.

16. Mr FONG Lung-fei respected the work of ICAC, hoping that it would uphold impartiality in its work and impart the sense of probity and compliance with the law among the public to eliminate bribery at elections. Besides, he enquired whether it was unlawful for DC Members to distribute to residents items donated by other organisations or whether it was a matter open to debate.

17. Mr WONG Chun-yeung commended ICAC for sparing no efforts to crackdown on corruption all the time. In 2015, he and ICAC worked together to arrest people who had offered to assist in snatching votes for a reward between \$150,000 and \$400,000. The case involved more than 40 electoral constituencies, and the persons involved were eventually arrested and sentenced. He requested ICAC once again to respond to the enquiry whether it was an election bribery if DC Members claimed to donate their remunerations to charitable organisations if elected.

18. Ms Amy YUNG indicated that problems had arisen in the recent elections of DC and Legislative Council (LegCo) and caused controversies. She was therefore worried that bribery in an election would become increasingly frequent. After the recent DCE, several residents of Discovery Bay reflected to her that they had previously received letters from the Electoral Affairs Commission, but the recipient's name was wrong. She had referred the cases to ICAC for investigation and expected that ICAC would realise the seriousness of the problem. Moreover, some organisations helped residents of Discovery Bay register as electors and told the residents that they would submit the completed forms for them. Some management companies had visited the residence of some elderly persons, given them gift packages and requested for taking photos with them. She queried if the above conduct involved invasion of privacy, thinking that ICAC should take the initiative to understand the above cases.

19. Mr Alpha LEUNG made a consolidated response as follow:

- (a) The purpose of presenting gift was essential for assessing whether the conduct was bribery in an election. It was an offence if the conduct of gift giving aimed to affect other persons' decision of voting as mentioned above. ICAC would not comment on individual incidents. ICAC encouraged Members to report suspected corrupt or illegal practices; and ICAC would follow them up according to the law.
- (b) Regarding the district publicity work mentioned by Members, ICAC was ready to provide education services concerning prevention of corruption to residents of the district.

20. Members unanimously endorsed the "All for Integrity" Publicity Project for Islands District 2020/2021 set out in the paper, and proposed that the Islands District Council (IDC) act as a supporting organisation for the project, and permitted ICAC to display the logo of IDC on the promotional materials.

(Post-meeting note: At the IDC meeting on 22 June 2020, IDC endorsed the work report of Community Affairs, Culture and Recreation Committee (CACRC) and agreed that IDC act as a supporting organisation for the ICAC project.)

(Ms Josephine TSANG joined the meeting at around 11:00 a.m.)

III. Question on air-conditioning system and negative pressure exhaust system of Princess Margaret Hospital stopping working suddenly
(Paper CACRC 16/2020)

21. The Chairman welcomed Dr Michael WONG, Chief Manager of Kowloon West Cluster of the Hospital Authority (HA) to the meeting to respond to the question. HA and the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) had provided a joint written reply for Members' perusal.

22. Ms Amy YUNG briefly introduced the question.
23. Dr Michael WONG briefly introduced the written reply and added as follows:
- (a) The sixth to the fifteenth floors in the Infectious Disease Centre of the Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH) were ward floors. Situated on the seventh floor and the thirteenth floor were air-conditioning plant rooms used for placing air-conditioning units. On the day of the incident, suspension of the air-conditioning system took place on all floors except the eleventh floor.
 - (b) The air-conditioning system of the Infectious Disease Centre was equipped with a separate computer-controlled monitoring system connecting to the central monitoring computer installed in the server room on the top floor via a network. The central monitoring computer was connected to the network switch and then to the air-conditioning controls on all floors.
 - (c) At that time, the original maintenance contractor of the central control and monitoring system was replacing a suspected faulty network switch. According to the procedure, the contractor needed to unplug the network cable, so the air-conditioners and the central monitoring computer would be temporarily disconnected. The system was designed in such a way that the air-conditioning operation would remain normal during the disconnection. However, upon the replacement of the network switch at 3:00 p.m., the alarm system of the negative pressure wards was suddenly activated, indicating that the negative pressure system of the wards was suspended. The contractor therefore put the original network switch back immediately, and normal operation of the negative pressure system in the wards resumed within half an hour. EMSD had established an investigation task force of the incident and engaged university professors as independent third parties for investigation.
 - (d) Replacement of network switch was a common maintenance item. The contractor would replace 30 to 40 network switches a year on average, and no similar incident had taken place in the past. The above situation was a rare one indeed, and EMSD had formed a task force for investigation.
 - (e) Healthcare personnel were required to wear a surgical mask only when they were at the common corridor of the wards and nurse stations. However, they had to first wear a N95 respirator in designated rooms before entering negative pressure wards to look after patients with the novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). There were two doors separating the negative pressure ward from the common corridor. The air pressure was lowest in the negative pressure ward, higher in the room between the ward and the common corridor, and highest at the common

corridor. Therefore, air would flow from the corridor into the room in the middle and then into the negative pressure ward. Under normal circumstances, the air in the ward would not move back to the corridor so that the air in the common corridor could be kept clean.

- (f) During malfunction of the negative pressure system, there was no variation in the pressure in the above three spaces. If the ward door was open at this time, virus might come out to the common corridor with the air. The standard operational guidelines for the Infectious Disease Centre set out the corresponding solutions when the negative pressure system of the ward ceased to operate, which included avoiding going in and out of the ward prior to restoration of the system and requiring all healthcare personnel outside the ward to wear a N95 respirator. If the system failed to resume normal operation shortly, mobile chillers would be placed in the ward for use by patients and patients with infectious disease would be instructed to open the windows in the ward. During the period of the system malfunction, mobile chillers were not provided and the windows in the wards were not opened because air-conditioning in the affected wards was suspended for 34 minutes at most only.
- (g) After conducting assessment, PMH's infection control officers concluded that the risk of the incident was low. It was because COVID-19 virus was mainly transmitted by respiratory droplets and was difficult to spread to the corridor by air because of the long distance between the corridor and the wards concerned and the separation of the corridor and the wards by two doors. In addition, the negative pressure system resumed normal operation in half an hour after the incident. PMH had also conducted thorough cleaning and disinfection at the common corridor outside the wards to play safe.
- (h) When the negative pressure system did not work properly, aerosol-generating procedure should be avoided. Aerosol-generating procedure would cause virus to remain in the air for a prolonged period, hence increasing the risk of virus transmission outside the wards. PMH remarked that no aerosol-generating procedure was conducted during the suspension of the air-conditioning system. Besides, the air-conditioning system of the Infectious Disease Centre operated independently and was not connected to other buildings. Visiting arrangement had been suspended in PMH at present. In addition, as the incident occurred on the last day of Easter holidays and the specialist clinic was closed that day, the incident did not have any impact on the public.

24. Mr WONG Chun-yeung enquired whether the presentation materials and layout plan could be distributed by email for Members' perusal.

(Post-meeting note: HA had distributed the presentation materials and layout plan to Members through the Secretariat after the meeting.)

25. Mr LEE Ka-ho enquired while the above contingency plan mainly aimed at protecting healthcare personnel, whether there were any measures to ensure patient safety.

26. Dr Michael WONG said that the corridor and nurse station were separated from the ward by two doors, and any two wards were separated by four doors. Each negative pressure ward could accommodate one or two patients only, so the risk of cross infection among patients was lower than the risk of infection of healthcare personnel. On the day of the incident, PMH had immediately checked with the contractor about the time required for repair. Having learnt that the system would resume normal within a short time, contingency measures such as placing mobile chillers or opening windows in the wards were not taken. In the case of a prolonged system malfunction, patients would be evacuated from the wards or transferred to other hospitals.

27. Mr Sammy TSUI enquired whether there was a standby air-conditioning system in PMH to reduce the negative impact of system failure.

28. Dr Michael WONG said that an automatic backup system was in place in PMH. When there was an unplanned power interruption, the standby generator would operate in a short time. In addition, an uninterruptible power system was also provided in PMH. Although there was no standby air-conditioning system in PMH, the standard operational guidelines for Infectious Disease Centre had set out measures to cope with short-term or long-term malfunction of the air-conditioning system.

(Mr Sammy TSUI joined the meeting at around 11:20 a.m.)

IV. Question on disinfection of collection and facilities of Hong Kong Public Libraries
(Paper CACRC 17/2020)

XV. Motion on opening library study rooms for a limited period of time
(Paper CACRC 28/2020)

XVI. Question on E-book borrowing service of public libraries
(Paper CACRC 29/2020)

29. The Chairman welcomed Ms KWOK Lai-kuen, Elaine, Senior Librarian (Islands) of LCSD to the meeting to respond to the question. The written reply of LCSD had been tabled at the meeting for Members' perusal.

30. Ms Amy YUNG briefly introduced the question.

31. Ms Elaine KWOK briefly introduced the written reply.

32. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho said that Item XV involved the motion on opening library study rooms for a limited period of time and enquired whether the two agenda items could be discussed together to save the waiting time of the representative of LCSD.

33. The Chairman said that Ms Elaine KWOK attended the meeting as an attendee.
34. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho enquired whether an attendee could withdraw from meeting after discussion of the concerned items for other commitments.
35. The Chairman explained that attendees would generally present throughout the meeting.
36. Ms Amy YUNG expressed her views as follows:
- (a) She said that agenda items of related areas would be discussed together in general. While Ms KWOK was a regular attendee, time was precious for government representatives and she thought that Ms KWOK might not need to attend the entire meeting. She proposed that the Chairman should exercise flexibility and group related items together for discussion to save time.
 - (b) She believed that the epidemic would last for some time and might become a seasonal disease. It was labour-intensive for disinfection and checking of physical books. Besides, virus might survive on the surface of an object for some time, posing potential risks to library staff. She therefore proposed to pool resources to procure e-books in future, thus facilitating books borrowing by members of the public and reducing the risk of infection.
37. Mr LEE Ka-ho agreed that related agenda items be discussed together with the question he raised on e-book borrowing service of public libraries. He enquired whether people entering the libraries would be mandatorily required to wear a face mask. In his opinion, libraries were confined space and the risk of infection might be increased if library users only needed to undergo body temperature check without wearing face masks. He continued to enquire why libraries were opened for public use but excluding the study room and the newspapers and periodicals section. Noting the similarity in the nature between libraries and study rooms, newspapers and periodicals sections, he proposed that the partition arrangements among tables inside food premises be applied to libraries. He said that study rooms were important facilities to students and candidates sitting for the examinations this year, and so were newspapers and periodicals services to other members of the public, therefore hoping these facilities would be open for use soonest.
38. The Chairman proposed that Items IV, XV and XVI which were of related areas be discussed together. Members agreed to the proposal.
39. Ms Amy YUNG suggested the Secretariat make appropriate arrangement for related agenda items in future to save the time of discussion.
40. The Chairman invited Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho to briefly introduce the motion in Paper CACRC 28/2020.

41. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho briefly presented the paper. If the motion was endorsed, he would liaise with DC Members of the other 17 districts to discuss with LCSD for opening the library study rooms in the territory. In addition to implementing the requirement of wearing face masks, people with high body temperature after repeated temperature checks should be referred to nearby hospital for examination. He opined that opening of library facilities should be considered in conjunction with stringent anti-epidemic measures.

42. The Chairman invited Mr LEE Ka-ho to briefly introduce the question in Paper CACRC 29/2020.

43. Mr LEE Ka-ho briefly presented the paper. He said that economic activities almost came to a halt due to the epidemic, and people should have a chance to develop a reading habit. However, owing to suspension of library service, the public was unable to borrow printed books and not many people knew that e-book borrowing service was provided by the libraries. As stated in LCSD's written reply, it would promote e-book borrowing service. In his opinion, e-books were popular all over the world and the sales of e-books and e-book readers had been on the increase. However, as promotion was inadequate in Hong Kong, he hoped that the libraries could step up publicity in this aspect.

44. The Chairman invited the representative to give a consolidated response.

45. Ms Elaine KWOK briefly introduced the written replies to Items XV and XVI and made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) In view of the latest status of the epidemic, public libraries under LCSD implemented special measures after reopening including body temperature check for people who wanted to enter the libraries. However, the timetable of reopening the remaining libraries was not available for the time being. LCSD would continue to review the situation and make timely adjustment to the arrangements for preventive measures and resumption of service.
- (b) LCSD proposed that people entering the reopened libraries at present should wear a face mask to protect oneself and others.
- (c) During the period of temporary closure of libraries, online services were still available, which included access to the library catalogue and borrowers' record enquiry, as well as use of the library official mobile application "My Library" and electronic collections (including information on e-books and library materials related to anti-epidemic and health, etc.).
- (d) "Take a Break - eReading Corner" was organised again this year in mid-April to promote e-reading. To tie in with "World Book Day" held on 23 April, an online exhibition of the winning entries in the competition

was staged for public viewing.

- (e) Besides, during the temporary closure of the libraries, special arrangement had been made to allow online access to some of the e-databases, which previously could only be accessed inside the libraries.

46. Mr FONG Lung-fei proposed that Roman numerals used in the agenda be replaced with Arabic/Chinese/English numerals to facilitate Members' reading. He enquired whether discretion would be given to fines for overdue books during the period of temporary closure of libraries.

47. Ms Amy YUNG said that the Council had all along been using Roman numerals to indicate agenda items and change was not needed. Residents on outlying islands heavily relied on mobile library service, so she hoped that the service would be expeditiously resumed with appropriate anti-epidemic and cleaning measures adopted.

48. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho said that although the libraries had been reopened, temporary closure of study rooms and newspapers and periodicals sections continued without adequate justification. Regarding "My Library" mobile app, some users reflected that, after updating of the program, repeated attempts might be needed for login and delays in sending overdue notices would occur. He hoped that the libraries would follow up and pay attention to users' views. He reiterated that if venue closure was implemented on grounds of "avoiding gathering of people to minimise the risk of infection", such justification should apply to all situations, including temporary closure of all library facilities and suspension of DC meetings. He proposed that restriction on opening hours of and number of users might be imposed on study rooms to reduce the risk of infection.

49. Mr LEE Ka-ho was glad that the libraries increased e-books in their collection. Since e-book database service suppliers provided service globally, he enquired whether the libraries could request specific e-book titles from suppliers such as HyRead, or whether the lists of titles were updated by the suppliers on a quarterly basis. If the latter was the case, he was worried that e-book collections in Hong Kong would be limited by the supply from suppliers. As regards e-magazines, most of them were published in Taiwan and those published in Hong Kong were limited.

50. Ms Josephine TSANG said that if libraries or study rooms were to be reopened, restriction should be imposed on the number of users according to the area of the library or study room. Although the epidemic situation had subsided, it was not yet under control. As experts had warned that the epidemic would last for some time and the risk of relapse cases among patients was in existence, restriction on the number of library users should be imposed.

51. Mr Randy YU opined that it was worth considering the reopening of study rooms to provide a good study environment for users. As indicated in LCSD's reply, admission by sessions (about one hour per session) was implemented at some libraries. He enquired whether the measure had been assessed by experts. He was concerned about the negative impact on the progress of study of students if study rooms also

implemented admission by sessions at one hour per session. He enquired of LCSD whether temporary closure of study rooms continued due to the above reason.

52. Ms Elaine KWOK made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) LCSD had always strived for building and developing a balanced and multifarious collection of printed books, e-books and e-databases, and would continue to procure or subscribe electronic resources.
- (b) Overdue fines would not be generated for late return of library materials before the normal services of library facilities had been fully resumed. All book drop services would be resumed from 6 May 2020 and the public might check the service hours of the book drops in various districts via the website of libraries.
- (c) The latest arrangement of the mobile library service would be announced via the library website or IDC, and cleaning and anti-epidemic measures of mobile library vans would be stepped up, such as provision of alcohol-based handrub. If there was space available inside the vans, posters of anti-epidemic messages might be displayed to remind the public of paying attention to environmental hygiene and keeping their hands clean.
- (d) Each person who wanted to enter any of the seven libraries implementing admission by sessions had to first obtain admission slip before entering. Each session would last for about one hour and the maximum number of users at one session had been laid down in the light of the size of individual libraries. Limited services would be provided to the public during partial reopening of the libraries. In the interest of public health, it was necessary to implement special measures at the libraries to avoid people gathering and reduce social contact.
- (e) Students' study room would be opened at all sessions during non-examination season. For example, they might be opened from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., and at special hours on Saturdays and Sundays. During the main examination period, they would be opened at three sessions in the morning, afternoon and evening respectively. While the service of students' study rooms had been suspended for the time being, LCSD would adjust the anti-epidemic measures and the arrangement of reopening the study rooms in a timely manner, having regard to the latest situation of the epidemic.
- (f) LCSD would obtain HyRead e-books by way of subscription from an e-database service provider in Taiwan. LCSD would select e-books that met the reading interests of Hong Kong readers to form its collection.
- (g) Regarding the promotion of e-books collection, apart from setting up promotional booths of "Take a Break - eReading Corner" in a number of shopping malls in the territory to guide the public to download and use

the application, LCSD also produced demo videos to enhance public understanding of the application.

- (h) Regarding the login of “My Library” mobile app, she thanked Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho for his views and would follow up with him after the meeting. Besides, if readers had registered for personalised alert services, the system would automatically send emails to remind readers of picking up reserved items and due dates of borrowed books, etc.

53. Mr Ken WONG had reservations on reopening of libraries. He indicated that LCSD had reopened the soccer pitches after the outbreak of the first wave of the epidemic and some organisations had held football matches in Peng Chau, thereby causing considerable repercussions among the people. The current term of Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination had commenced. If LCSD planned to reopen the study rooms, the initiative could only be implemented in the middle of this month at the earliest, and by then the examination was almost over. He therefore opined that LCSD needed not be hurried to reopen the study rooms because it would be undesirable if some people were infected in the study rooms. He hoped that LCSD would give serious consideration to this matter.

54. Mr FONG Lung-fei continued to enquire about the period of exemption for overdue fines for late return of library books since he was worried that the exemption would be abused if no time limit was laid down.

55. Ms Josephine TSANG also did not want LCSD to make decision hurriedly. She was concerned that the reopening of libraries and study rooms would lead to another wave of infections due to the possibility of relapse cases and asymptomatic patients.

56. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He would follow up on matters related to “My Library” mobile app with Ms Elaine KWOK after the meeting.
- (b) He understood the concerns of Mr Ken WONG and Ms Josephine TSANG, but opined that considerations should be made in the context of the general life. If they were concerned that reopening of study rooms would cause problems, decision about suspension of the HKDSE Examination should have been made earlier. As the Education Bureau (EDB) had implemented additional measures for holding the HKDSE Examination and people still needed to live as usual during the epidemic, students also needed to have suitable places for study.
- (c) He agreed to Mr Ken WONG in that even if the motion on reopening study rooms was endorsed, LCSD still needed more than 10 days for making arrangement. If the epidemic would last for two consecutive years, it was not reasonable to hold the discussion once again in the following year. Since IDC had resumed normal meeting, he enquired

why Members who were worried that reopening of study rooms would cause another wave of the epidemic did not apply for absence from meeting or conduct meeting via the Internet.

- (d) Understanding that other Members raised views on epidemic prevention, he proposed that the motion be endorsed first. Seeing that the libraries had been reopened, reopening of study rooms could also be arranged under the same conditions. He shared Mr Randy YU's concern over admission by sessions for study rooms. If study rooms were opened for one session (one hour per session) and then closed for half an hour for cleaning and disinfection, it would affect the students who did not have suitable environment for study. He reiterated that he understood all parties were concerned about the epidemic, but opined that learning was very important to students. Seeing that EDB had decided to hold the HKDSE Examination, more measures should be adopted to facilitate students.

57. Ms Elaine KWOK made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) LCSD had reopened Hong Kong Central Library and six major libraries in mid-March. However, in view of the development of the epidemic and the increased number of confirmed cases of COVID-19, the libraries were closed again for the sake of public safety. LCSD would timely review the arrangement and, if the decision of reopening study rooms was taken, would adopt special anti-epidemic measures such as the arrangements of opening sessions and time, restriction on users, as well as disinfection and cleansing, etc.
- (b) As seven libraries would be reopened on 6 May 2020 and temporary closure was still implemented for the remaining libraries, overdue fines would not be generated for late return of library materials before library facilities had fully resumed normal services. Upon service resumption of all libraries, LCSD would timely schedule for the effective date of regenerating overdue fines and announce details of the arrangement.

58. Mr Randy YU opined that the discussion was in a dilemma. On the one hand, Members were concerned about the study of numerous students and on the other, they were worried about the epidemic situation. Members were currently risking their life to attend meetings in the public interest. However, priorities and balances should be considered in anti-epidemic efforts. In view of the current epidemic situation, the reason of not resuming classes was to avoid causing an outbreak in the community. As the environment of study rooms was like that of classrooms, he therefore enquired whether reopening of libraries was a decision taken after adopting expert advice. He believed that the motion was of a good intention while measures such as partition arrangement among seats and body temperature check were also feasible. However, he could not ascertain whether it was feasible to open study rooms implementing admission by one-hour sessions. As he did not want to endorse a motion which was

unable to be carried out by the libraries, he wanted to clarify the relevant issues before voting.

59. The Chairman said that the questions of agenda items IV and XVI would be handled first before voting on the motion of Item XV. He enquired whether Members had anything to add regarding Items IV and XVI.

60. Mr Ken WONG agreed to first formulate complementary measures in conjunction with opening of study rooms. He did not want to exert pressure on LCSD for reopening libraries after the motion was endorsed by voting. Since experts claimed that the epidemic might continue for some time, he proposed to first explore corresponding measures for the next HKDSE Examination and was concerned about the situation when the libraries reopened on 6 May 2020. He had reservations on holding the HKDSE Examination under the circumstances where classes were not resumed yet. As the contingency measures taken by the Government in the first and second waves of the epidemic were not so good, reckless action should not be taken at present when the epidemic had almost come to an end.

61. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho enquired of the representative of EDB why the HKDSE Examination was held but classes were not resumed, and whether EDB had given advice to LCSD on reopening of study rooms.

62. Mr WONG Chun-yeung proposed to endorse the motion first. According to yesterday's news reports, there was no confirmed local case of COVID-19 infection in Hong Kong for 14 consecutive days. The Government had started to review the measures of prohibition on group gathering, relaxing the number of persons allowed in group gatherings in public places from four to eight. He considered it unfair to candidates sitting for the current HKDSE Examination because the examination was held as usual without providing suitable places for candidates to study. Although the environment of study rooms resembled that of classrooms, he opined that reference could be drawn from the arrangement of keeping a distance between seats in restaurants. He therefore proposed to first endorse the motion and then discuss the implementation of measures.

63. Mr LEE Ka-ho supported the expeditious reopening of study rooms. When Members were preparing the motion, announcement of the reopening of libraries had not been made. He noticed that many students were studying in coffee shops. It was ridiculous that the Government did not provide students with ancillary facilities for study even after the HKDSE Examination had commenced. Ms Elaine KWOK indicated that as admission by sessions had been implemented during peak examination seasons in the past, it would not be difficult for libraries to implement admission by sessions and partition arrangement between seats after reopening the study rooms. He agreed to Mr WONG Chun-yeung's query about the Government's justification of holding the HKDSE Examination without arranging for ancillary facilities during an unstable epidemic situation. He considered it an act of irresponsibility by placing emphasis on examination without making arrangement for complementary measures.

64. Ms Amy YUNG also pointed out that, as held by Professor Yuen Kwok-yung, “it was unjustifiable to prohibit people from enjoying movies in cinema as long as they were not allowed to eat or drink in the venues”. Comparatively speaking, the distance between seats in a cinema was less than that in a study room. She did not understand why study rooms could not be reopened even after experts proposed to reopen cinemas when the distance between the seats in the former was relatively greater and eating and drinking therein were always forbidden.

65. Mr FONG Lung-fei proposed that the libraries should follow the practice of restaurants by installing plastic partitions between seats. As IDC had resumed normal meetings and restaurants could operate with established measures, study rooms could also be reopened after installing plastic partitions because they were less popular than restaurants.

66. Ms Elaine KWOK made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) Regarding the partial reopening of some libraries, LCSD would prepare for staffing and cleaning arrangements in advance and continue to review the situation for making timely adjustment to the relevant preventive measures. If the students’ study rooms were to be opened in sessions (about one hour per session) like the libraries, it would take some time for LCSD to consider the workflow and deployment of manpower.
- (b) Plastic transparent partitions had been installed at the service counters of libraries to be reopened. For students’ study rooms managed by LCSD, some were provided with big tables of traditional design and safety barriers would be installed between seats. For study rooms of new design, barriers were installed at three sides of each individual seat. Epidemic protective measures of each study room would be strengthened depending on individual circumstances and the situation would be monitored continuously.

67. Ms Katy KWAN said that EDB would take expert advice into account. It would also have close discussion and review with the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority on the adequacy of protective measures, and consider the examination arrangement in a comprehensive manner to reduce the risk of infection of students. With the concerted efforts of various departments, EDB had implemented a number of measures, including seating arrangement, allocation of protective equipment, distribution of anti-epidemic items to candidates, and so on, with a view to ensuring that all candidates were adequately protected. As EDB understood that students wanted to know their own learning standard, public examinations were held every year to assess the academic level of students and provide the means to facilitate their further study and employment. Various departments had performed a lot of preparatory work so that the HKDSE Examination could be held as usual. If the epidemic continued or had other developments, EDB had prepared different plans to cope with the situation, ensuring the safety of candidates and invigilators during the examination period. After assessment, various departments opined that the examination could carry on. In case of emergency, the departments would co-ordinate to implement

corresponding measures. She reiterated that EDB made the arrangements after seeking advice from relevant experts.

68. Mr LEE Ka-ho understood that EDB had endeavoured to implement complementary measures to facilitate the smooth conduct of the HKDSE Examination. He also noted that EDB had co-ordinated with various departments, including distributing face masks to candidates, appealing to the public for working with flexitime to ensure smooth traffic for candidates accessing to examination venues, and so on. He enquired why EDB did not include the reopening of study rooms in the above measures, and whether EDB opined that it was not necessary to provide suitable places for students to study. Opining that EDB was not considerate towards students, he indicated that attending an examination was not simply completing examination papers and getting good grades for further education, students had to put a lot of efforts before the examinations, such as undergoing school-based assessment in schools and studying hard to prepare for the examinations. In the past, students used to study harder during the holidays before the examinations every year. Nevertheless, suitable places were not provided for them to study at present. He enquired why EDB did not include the reopening of study rooms as one of the complementary measures.

69. Ms Katy KWAN undertook to relay the views to EDB and would consider jointly handling the matter with LCSD.

70. The Chairman enquired whether Members had any proposed amendments to the “Motion on opening library study rooms for a limited period of time”.

71. Mr Randy YU proposed to amend the motion as follows: “The Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination was about to commence, but some candidates do not have a good environment for study. As the library study rooms could provide a good study environment for candidates, I move that the public libraries should proactively prepare for opening library study rooms for a limited period of time after obtaining the consent of anti-epidemic experts and formulating the relevant rules (such as increasing the distance between seats and requiring users to wear face masks and undergo body temperature check).”

72. Mr HO Siu-kei seconded the above amended motion.

73. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho proposed to amend the motion as follows: “The Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination had commenced, but some candidates do not have a good environment for study. As the library study rooms could provide a good study environment for candidates, I move a motion that library study rooms should be opened for a limited period of time after formulating the relevant rules (requesting LCSD to discuss with experts rules such as increasing the distance between seats, and requiring users to undergo body temperature check and wear face masks).”

74. Ms Amy YUNG seconded the above amended motion.

75. The Chairman invited Members to vote by a show of hands whether they agreed to Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho's amendment to the "Motion on opening library study rooms for a limited period of time".

76. Members voted by a show of hands. There were 12 voted for, no against and six abstaining. The amendment was endorsed.

(Members voted for included: the Chairman Mr WONG Man-hon, the Vice-Chairman Ms LAU Shun-ting, Mr Randy YU, Mr HO Siu-kei, Ms Josephine TSANG, Ms Amy YUNG, Mr Eric KWOK, Mr Sammy TSUI, Mr FONG Lung-fei, Mr LEE Ka-ho, Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho and Mr WONG Chun-yeung. Mr CHOW Yuk-tong, Mr YUNG Chi-ming, Mr CHAN Lin-wai, Mr Ken WONG, Mr HO Chun-fai and Ms WONG Chau-ping abstained.)

77. The Chairman invited Members to vote by a show of hands whether they endorsed Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho's amendment to the "Motion on opening library study rooms for a limited period of time". The amended motion was seconded by Ms Amy YUNG.

78. Ms Amy YUNG enquired about the procedure of voting.

79. The Secretary explained that Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho's proposed amendment had included Mr Randy YU's views. She enquired whether Members preferred to handle the two amendments separately or jointly as an amendment which had incorporated the views.

80. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho proposed to handle the last amended motion, that is, his amended motion. He said that whether to agree to the amendment and whether to endorse an amended motion would be put to vote together in the past.

81. Mr Randy YU pointed out that according to the Standing Orders, Members would first vote on whether to endorse the amendment before voting on whether to endorse the amended motion. Members had just voted and endorsed Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho's proposed amendment. Besides, he proposed to amend Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho's amended motion as follows: "The Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination had commenced, but some candidates do not have a good environment for study. As the study rooms in libraries could provide a good study environment for candidates, I move that the libraries should proactively prepare for opening study rooms for a limited period of time after formulating the relevant rules (requesting LCSD to discuss with experts rules such as increasing the distance between seats, and requiring users to undergo body temperature check and wear face masks) with the consent of anti-epidemic experts."

82. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho enquired whether the amended motion should be put to vote.

83. The Chairman invited Members to vote by a show of hands whether they agreed that Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho's amended motion be endorsed. The amended motion was seconded by Ms Amy YUNG.

84. Members voted by a show of hands. There were 14 voted for, two against and one abstaining. The amended motion was endorsed.

(Members voted for included: the Chairman Mr WONG Man-hon, the Vice-Chairman Ms LAU Shun-ting, Mr Randy YU, Mr YUNG Chi-ming, Mr CHAN Lin-wai, Mr HO Siu-kei, Ms Josephine TSANG, Ms Amy YUNG, Mr Eric KWOK, Mr Sammy TSUI, Mr FONG Lung-fei, Mr LEE Ka-ho, Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho and Mr WONG Chun-yeung. Members voted against included: Mr Ken WONG and Mr HO Chun-fai. Ms WONG Chau-ping abstained.)

(Post-meeting note: Following the partial reopening of Hong Kong Central Library and six major libraries on 6 May 2020, another 31 district libraries (including Tung Chung Public Library and Cheung Chau Public Library in Islands District) had also been partially reopened on 21 May and 15 June respectively to provide limited services, including lending and returning of library materials, and collecting library materials reserved. Some workstations in the Computer and Information Centre, Internet & Digital Service Workstations, students' study rooms and newspapers and periodicals sections, etc. were reopened.)

85. Ms Amy YUNG proposed the Secretariat use a projector to show the contents of amended motions immediately in future to facilitate voting by Members.

86. The Secretary said that the feasibility of the proposal would be explored after the meeting.

87. Mr LEE Ka-ho said that as amended motions would be proposed from time to time, there was a need to clearly show the contents of amended motions.

(Post-meeting note: Owing to manpower and equipment constraints, the secretaries of IDC and its committees would remind the respective chairpersons about the number of times Members had spoken during a meeting. When a Member moved an impromptu motion, staff of the Secretariat would make photocopies for distribution to all Members promptly.)

V. Question on disinfection of police launches, fireboats and helicopters of the Government Flying Service
(Paper CACRC 18/2020)

88. The Chairman welcomed Mr AU Kwok-ping, Divisional Officer (Marine)1 of the Fire Services Department (FSD) to the meeting to respond to the question. The

Government Flying Service and HKPF had provided written replies for Members' perusal.

89. Ms Amy YUNG briefly introduced the question.

90. Mr AU Kwok-ping responded as follows:

- (a) FSD's Infectious Disease Monitoring Task Force had all along been closely monitoring the development of the COVID-19 epidemic. It had also formulated and timely updated the internal guidelines on handling suspected/confirmed cases of the disease. The guidelines were prepared by a Medical Director of FSD who had drawn reference from the guidelines on wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) of the Hospital Authority (HA), Centre for Health Protection (CHP) and World Health Organisation. Frontline staff would wear appropriate PPE for their own safety in the light of the situation at scene and condition of patients. PPE provided for staff for handling suspected/confirmed cases of COVID-19 included N95 respirators, eye goggles, gloves, gowns and disposable caps.
- (b) FSD would carry out disinfection for vehicles, vessels and equipment after handling the cases. In general, 1:49 diluted bleach would be used for disinfection of the air-conditioning, ventilating and exhaust systems on vehicles and vessels as well as places that had been contaminated with patients' vomitus. To enhance the efficiency of disinfection, FSD had procured rechargeable backpack-style sprayers for thorough disinfection of FSD's premises, vehicles and vessels where necessary.
- (c) For staff members who had contacted COVID-19 patients, FSD would find out all staff members who had handled the confirmed cases and would maintain close liaison with CHP. If staff members were identified to have symptoms of COVID-19, medical officers of CHP would first understand the entire process including the procedure of handling such patients by FSD staff and PPE used at the time of handling the cases, so as to determine whether they were close contacts of patients and make arrangement for quarantine or COVID-19 test.

91. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho thanked the Police for transporting patients to and from hospitals with police launches. He pointed out that police officers wrapped patients with plastic garbage bags and sent them to Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital by police launches, and the voyage would take 40 minutes. Given the limited space on police launches, lack of facilities to keep out the cold, and sway of vessels during voyage, he was worried that all these would have negative impact on the patient's condition. He therefore recommended for adopting further protective measures when various departments transported patients by fireboats or police launches.

92. Mr AU Kwok-ping thanked Members for their views and said that FSD would enhance communication and co-ordination with the Police at regular meetings for improvement.

93. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho understood that the number of fireboat deployments had increased due to the epidemic and there might be difficulties in making service arrangement consequently. He hoped that FSD would continue to discuss with various departments and DCs ways of improving the situation in future.

VI. Question on increase in bicycle thefts in Tung Chung

(Paper CACRC 19/2020)

VII. Motion on request for installation of closed-circuit television at bicycle theft black spots in Tung Chung

(Paper CACRC 20/2020)

94. The Chairman welcomed Mr Simon Paul SOUTHGATE, Deputy District Commander of Lantau District and Mr OR Ching-yan, Vincent, Divisional Commander of Lantau North Division of HKPF, as well as Mr YAN Man-chi, Robin, Property Service Manager/Service (Hong Kong Island & Islands)³ of HD to the meeting to respond to the question.

95. Mr Sammy TSUI briefly introduced the question in Paper CACRC 19/2020. He added that seven to eight cases of bicycle theft occurred in Ying Tung Estate recently. He was concerned about the security of bicycles which were the major means of transport for most residents of the estate. He learnt that residents had reflected the situation to the staff of the management office and HD, and enquired if HD had the relevant records and how it would follow up.

96. The Chairman proposed to discuss Items VII and VI together since the contents were related. The motion of Item VII was moved by Mr WONG Chun-yeung and seconded by Mr Sammy TSUI.

97. Mr WONG Chun-yeung briefly introduced the motion in Paper CACRC 20/2020.

98. Mr Vincent OR made a consolidated response as follows:

(a) Regarding the increase in bicycle thefts in Tung Chung, he said that Lantau District of HKPF had received a total of 114 reports of bicycle theft in the past five years (from 2015 to 2019), among which 33 cases had been detected with 41 persons arrested in total. Lantau District attached great importance to bicycle thefts and, together with the Regional Crime Prevention Office of New Territories South Region, had stepped up the publicity of crime prevention in the district for enhanced vigilance of the public.

(b) The Police would step up patrols at bicycle theft black spots to combat

bicycle theft. The detection figures just mentioned had reflected that the Police efforts were effective rather than superficial ones. He reiterated that the Police would handle all reported cases with fairness and impartiality having regard to the situation of the community and the police district. Regarding the number of bicycle theft cases in the past five years, there were 31, 33, 19, 23 and 28 cases each year from 2015 to 2019 respectively, and 11 cases this year so far. The figures had reflected that the number of cases in each year might be increasing or decreasing instead of increasing every year, as indicated in the question. Nevertheless, the Police would arrange manpower, as and when needed, to handle the cases.

99. Mr Sammy TSUI expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He thanked the Police for providing the relevant figures. He, however, opined that the situation was not satisfactory because only more than 30 cases were detected out of more than 100 cases. He pointed out that although closed-circuit television (CCTV) or anti-theft device had been installed at cycle parking areas, the crime detection rate was low.
- (b) The Police indicated that there were only more than 30 bicycle thefts at most in each year from 2015 to 2019 but, as he believed, the figures did not accurately reflect the problem of bicycle theft. He said that residents of Tung Chung had been reflecting the occurrence of bicycle theft since the second half of last year. However, only six of the seven to eight cases had been reported to the Police due to the complicated reporting procedures. Besides, the residents also thought that the Police would not seriously detect the cases even after reporting, showing that residents cast doubt on the efficiency of the Police. He enquired if the Police's resource allocation on this kind of cases would be affected if some residents did not report the bicycle thefts.
- (c) Although this kind of cases appeared to be insignificant, they had much impact on the residents because many of them preferred to travel by bicycle. So, there were more bicycles in Tung Chung than in the urban area. He proposed that the Police should allocate resources to combat the crime. He enquired whether the Police had overlooked the crime in the area because most of the manpower on Lantau Island were deployed to deal with the social movement in the urban area. He hoped that the Police would allocate additional resource to combat bicycle theft since the social movement had subsided at present.

100. Ms Amy YUNG agreed to Mr Sammy TSUI's views, stating that complaints about bicycle theft in Discovery Bay had increased. She had suggested the residents report the cases to the Police for assistance. Nevertheless, the residents thought that reporting to the Police was merely a waste of time. As the Police had just clearly stated that it would investigate the relevant cases, she would relay the commitment of the Police to the residents and advise them to report the cases to police station in Tung

Chung, believing that the Police would proactively seek to combat the crime and follow up on the reported cases. Regarding the motion on installing CCTV at bicycle theft black spots, she believed that video recording of all of the criminal acts could facilitate crime detection by the Police and concurred that the number of detected cases should not be just a little more than 30.

101. The Chairman proposed that the question be dealt with first, followed by the motion. He invited the representative of HD to respond to the question.

102. Mr Robin YAN responded as follows:

- (a) There were three PRH in Tung Chung North and Tung Chung Central under the management of HD, namely, Ying Tung Estate, Fu Tung Estate and Yat Tung Estate. In the past two years, only Ying Tung Estate Property Services Management Office had received four reports of bicycle theft from residents for assistance, including one report made in 2019 and three in 2020, and the records showed that the residents concerned had reported the cases to the Police. Upon receipt of a report, staff of the estate office would generally advise the resident concerned to seek assistance from the Police immediately and keep the file number properly for reference. Based on past experience, the Police and residents concerned would jointly check the CCTV recordings at the security office of the relevant housing estates while HD would proactively co-operate in the investigation.
- (b) Regarding whether HD had planned to provide additional security equipment, HD had installed bicycle racks at the cycle parking areas in Ying Tung Estate so that residents might add a thief resistant lock on their bicycles which could then be locked at bicycle racks. HD would also post notices advising residents to add a thief resistant lock on their bicycles to prevent bicycle theft. In view of the situation in Ying Tung Estate, HD had urged frontline officers to step up inspections to cycle parking areas and report to the Police if any suspicious characters were noticed.

103. Mr Sammy TSUI expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He enquired whether the Police would take the initiative to liaise with the housing estates concerned and HD to understand the problem and explore preventive measures after bicycle thefts were reported. Owing to the substantial increase in bicycle theft, he enquired whether the Police would request HD or private housing estates to install CCTV or anti-theft facilities and hold meetings with other departments on anti-theft measures. Knowing that the Police Community Relations Office in other districts had previously attended District Fight Crime Committee meetings with representatives from housing estates and HD, he enquired whether these meetings were still convened at present. He urged various departments not to simply get their own way and muddle through the

work.

- (b) He proposed that the Police should streamline the procedure of taking statement for bicycle theft cases and other types of criminal cases which were simple in nature. In his opinion, as it sometimes might take several hours for taking statement, it was time-consuming indeed and would make some victims of crime step back from reporting the cases to the Police. So, he believed that a streamlined procedure could encourage residents to report cases and, if the Police proactively take follow-up action, such cases would substantially decrease, if not disappear, soon.
- (c) Noting that CCTVs were installed at every corner in Ying Tung Estate, he enquired whether HD had identified any suspicious characters when viewing the CCTV recordings. He enquired whether staff of estate offices and management offices would keep records of residents' reports on bicycle theft and reflect them to HD. In view of the increase in bicycle theft at present and failure to identify suspicious characters by CCTVs, he enquired whether HD would install additional CCTVs in the housing estates, thinking that provision of additional CCTVs and security facilities might be helpful to deter thieves at these locations. He expected that HD would fulfil its management duties and be accountable to the residents.

104. Mr Eric KWOK said that, as stated in the question, "It was suspected that some persons had all along been secretly monitoring the cycle parking spaces, and that bicycle theft was an organised crime." He enquired of the Police whether it was true and whether thorough investigation into these cases had been conducted, such as the process of selling the stolen bicycles by thieves. Besides, as the Government intended to develop Tung Chung into a low-carbon community by encouraging residents to travel by bicycles, which were becoming increasingly expensive, he hoped that the Police would attach importance to the problem.

105. Mr LEE Ka-ho opined that the detection rates provided by the Police were not satisfactory. In addition to frequent bicycle thefts, theft of bicycle parts also occurred from time to time. He enquired whether the Police had classified the cases and followed up on them seriously, and how many cases were reported and detected.

106. Mr WONG Chun-yeung wanted to make amendment to the motion.

107. The Chairman proposed that the motion be dealt with after discussion of the question.

108. Mr WONG Chun-yeung agreed to the arrangement. He recommended parking of unmanned police vehicles at locations where dispute or fight had taken place or locations suspected to be crime scenes for deterrence. He noticed that the Police had handled numerous cases this way in the past for enhanced deterrence. The amendment to the motion he just wanted to propose was to recommend adoption of the above

approach by the Police, i.e. parking police vehicles at bicycle theft black spots or arranging patrol by plain-clothes officers to eliminate bicycle theft.

109. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho proposed that HD should provide additional bicycle parking spaces in PHEs because the crux of the problem might lie with inadequate supply of bicycle parking space. He also proposed that the Police should step up night patrol at bicycle theft black spots because many criminal cases took place at night. Even if suspects were captured in CCTV recordings, it might not be successful in arresting them. However, if suspects were witnessed at scene when they were committing offences, he believed that the Police would be capable to arrest them. He therefore held that it would be more effective to step up patrol than install additional CCTVs.

110. Mr Vincent OR made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) He thanked Members for their views and enquiries. The Police had received reports of theft of bicycle parts, but he did not have the relevant information at hand. He might provide Members the information for reference after the meeting if necessary.
- (b) The Police had received a total of 11 reports of bicycle theft so far this year and three of them had been detected. The first detected case occurred in Yu Tung Court. Police officers ambushing at scene witnessed a person who was cutting off the anti-theft lock on bicycles parked there with scissors, and immediately caught the thief red-handed. The second detected case occurred at Tung Chung Road Soccer Pitch. Some residents witnessed a person cutting off the anti-theft lock on bicycles parked there with scissors, and reported the case to the Police. Upon arrival of police officers at scene, they were informed by residents that the suspect was still in the vicinity and subsequently arrested the thief. He pointed out that, as revealed in the above examples, in addition to detecting crime by hiding in ambush and surveillance, the Police relied on the collaboration of local residents. The Police was responsible for law enforcement while residents might take the role of guards to provide the Police with intelligence to facilitate prompt crime detection. This was a good example of Police-public co-operation. The suspect of the third detected case was arrested in Kwai Chung and admitted that the bicycles he stole in Tung Chung were transported to Kwai Chung for sale. He remarked that each police district performed duties according to the established procedure and collaborated with local residents.
- (c) He indicated that detection of some cases was difficult. For example, even if thieves involving in theft of bicycle parts were under arrest, it was still difficult to prove that the bicycle parts seized were stolen ones. He hoped that Members would understand that the difficulty of crime detection varied from case to case.
- (d) Regarding the proposal of parking unmanned police vehicles at some locations, he indicated that it was a common practice of the Police. The

Police would generally make such arrangement for major or more serious cases such as serious wounding, robbery and burglary, but the actual arrangement would depend on the demand of individual police districts and communities. Since the number of bicycle thefts in the housing estates in the past three years was only 10 per annum at most and parking of police vehicles at various locations would draw away the resources of the Police, the proposal might not be desirable.

- (e) He invited Members to maintain communication with residents and encourage residents to report criminal cases and provide intelligence to the Police to facilitate effective analysis of bicycle theft black spots and expedite investigation. As there were 10 housing estates in North Lantau at present and Discovery Bay was a vast area, it might not be suitable for parking police vehicles to achieve deterrent effects. He opined that deployment of police officers for patrolling in the vicinity of cycle parking areas and for guarding parked police vehicles were appropriate measures to combat more serious crimes. He said that the Police would consider using these methods when the number of bicycle thefts increased.

111. Mr Robin YAN responded as follows:

- (a) On records of bicycle theft, when residents of Ying Tung Estate reported bicycle thefts at the office of the estate, security personnel on duty would request the victims of crime to provide as much relevant details as possible. As the Police had just mentioned, the information supplied by concerned residents would facilitate investigation of the reported cases by the Police. Staff in the office would generally take down in the respective incident reports the time and location of bicycle thefts, as well as the information on the stolen bicycle parts or the stolen bicycle, etc.
- (b) On CCTVs, they had been installed at the three cycle parking areas in Ying Tung Estate, which were located at the rear area of Ying Hei House, at the side of Ying Chui House and in front of the planter at the hourly car park. HD had arranged staff to check all CCTVs concerned before the meeting to see whether the CCTVs were damaged and whether the lens were stained and, after checking, found that all were in normal operation. Nevertheless, HD would enhance communication with the Police and, where necessary and technically feasible, explore the installation of additional CCTVs according to the actual situation.

112. Mr Sammy TSUI agreed to encourage residents to report bicycle theft cases to the Police and he himself had encouraged a number of residents to do so. He also urged the Police to follow up on reported cases of bicycle theft in Ying Tung Estate and understand whether there were any security loopholes which the thieves could exploit.

113. Mr Vincent OR noted Members' views and would provide the supplementary information after the meeting.

114. Mr Robin YAN said that he would relay the proposal of providing additional cycle parking areas in Cheung Chau to the relevant officers.

(Post-meeting note: The proposal had been relayed to the relevant officers after the meeting.)

115. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho expected that HD would review the number of cycle parking spaces in the entire Islands District. He hoped that HD would explore the feasibility of providing additional bicycle parking spaces in housing estates under its management because the existing parking areas at Tung Chung, Mui Wo Ferry Pier and Peng Chau, etc. were fully parked with bicycles.

116. The Chairman said that discussion on the “Motion on request for installation of closed-circuit television at bicycle theft black spots in Tung Chung” commenced and enquired whether Members had any amendment to the motion.

117. Mr Randy YU said that he had communicated with the Police concerning installation of CCTVs in old villages in Tung Chung. He then learnt that residents had to install CCTVs by themselves, and the Police had previously rejected the proposals of installing “sky eyes” in Lan Kwai Fong or Yau Tsim Mong District. He enquired whether the Police could install CCTVs in public places when resources permitted.

118. Mr Vincent OR indicated that the Police rarely installed CCTVs at public places and was at present fighting crime with the aid of CCTV recordings provided by other government departments or private organisations, such as viewing of CCTV recordings provided by HD or Link Asset Management Limited (The Link). He said that the Police had implemented Project “Lantau Eyes” since 2017, through which stakeholders of the Lantau district might collaborate with the Police and raise views in various aspects such as installation of additional CCTV systems in various locations and strategic installation of CCTVs, etc. Apart from encouraging mutual help and protection among residents, the project also helped prevent and fight crime. He pointed out that as cost or installation of CCTVs was the responsibility of venue manager, including HD, The Link and local residents, the motion was not in line with the usual practice of the Police.

119. Mr WONG Chun-yeung wanted to amend the motion as follows: “Bicycle theft in Tung Chung had been worsening and the Police was duty-bound to tackle the problem. Nevertheless, many residents opined that the Police’s way of handling and work attitude towards the problem were unsatisfactory. In this connection, I move to request the government departments concerned to install CCTVs at all public cycle parking spaces in Tung Chung with a view to improving the law and order in the district.” The amended motion was seconded by Mr Sammy TSUI.

120. Ms WONG Chau-ping requested the Police to give a clear response to whether it was feasible to install CCTVs at public cycle parking spaces.

121. Mr Vincent OR replied that it was infeasible under normal circumstances.

122. Ms Amy YUNG understood that the Police would normally not install CCTVs at public places. However, she remarked that the amended motion simply requested for installation of additional CCTVs without specifying the departments for implementation. Therefore, it was not out of line with the usual practice of the Police.

123. Mr HO Chun-fai proposed to temporarily withdraw the motion since the Police had already stated its position of not installing CCTVs. The motion might be moved again in future to request appropriate government departments (such as LandsD or the Transport Department) for installing CCTVs to facilitate more effective handling of the matter.

124. Mr Randy YU agreed to Mr HO Chun-fai's views. He opined that the original motion was not feasible but the amended one was more reasonable. However, it was all too general to request government departments to install CCTVs at all public cycle parking spaces in Tung Chung. He thought that IDC might take the lead in this matter. Members might propose locations for installation of CCTV at meetings of the District Facilities Management Committee (DFMC), initiate the work under the District Minor Works programme, and consider which departments would be responsible for implementation, aiming to take law enforcement at various bicycle theft black spots one by one. He proposed that Members should review the locations in their constituencies where CCTVs should be installed, and then submit project proposals to DFMC for endorsement and works implementation, lest the motion should become empty talk.

125. Mr WONG Chun-yeung thought that the motion had its merits even if it was a vague one. He explained that the bicycle parking spaces in Tung Chung Central Constituency to which Mr LEE Ka-ho belonged were mainly managed by LCSD. In Tung Chung South Constituency to which he belonged, the bicycle parking spaces were mainly managed by LandsD and HD. For this reason, he made a general request to "the departments concerned" to tackle the problem at bicycle theft black spots, preventing the follow-up action to be taken in future from being confined to a specific department. He said that the motion could be used as a reference to address public concern and then gradually solve the problem. He chose to use the wording "the departments concerned" simply because he wanted to avoid confusion among departments in their work.

126. Ms WONG Chau-ping thought that Mr WONG Chun-yeung's motion, which aimed to fight crime, deserved appreciation. She agreed that the motion be raised at meetings of DFMC. In addition to bicycle theft, other crimes also often took place at numerous locations in Tung Chung. For example, a thief snatched the victim's mobile phone at the entrance of the 7-Eleven Convenience Store in Mun Tung Estate this March. The Police collected evidence through the private CCTVs installed in Mun Tung Estate and even checked the driving video recording system of some private cars for clues. There were also some traffic safety problems related to traffic islands and traffic lights in Tung Chung. To sum up, she agreed that the proposal of installing CCTVs be submitted to DFMC for discussion and improving work efficiency.

127. Ms Amy YUNG pointed out that the agenda item only aimed at tackling bicycle theft and should not involve other crimes to avoid creating complications. She supported Mr WONG Chun-yeung's motion, believing that it could provide guidance by nature. If the motion was endorsed, it might be implemented through DFMC and the implementation might involve several departments. If the motion was withdrawn for the time being, it might be discussed at DFMC meetings in due course. However, she was worried that it would be difficult to identify the responsible departments and amendment to the motion might be required then. She opined that Mr WONG Chun-yeung's motion was a broad-brush one but was of a clear orientation. Hence, she proposed that after finalisation, the proposal be submitted to DFMC for discussion on ways of implementation.

128. Mr HO Chun-fai agreed to the content of the motion. However, he considered it inappropriate to vote on the motion at that time since it would bring confusion to the procedure. He proposed that decision be made by IDC or the Chairman on handing over the issue to an appropriate committee or working group for discussion and negotiation with concerned departments, and then taking further action after a consensus was reached.

129. Mr Randy YU held that it was a feasible orientation by making amendments to the motion. He, however, reiterated that the exact locations for installation should be discussed in detail at DFMC meetings. He agreed with Ms WONG Chau-ping that CCTVs should be installed at various black spots of crime. So, he also encouraged Members to submit proposed locations, which were black spots of traffic accident and other crimes such as robbery, to DFMC for co-ordination with various departments for the installation of CCTVs.

130. Mr Ken WONG said he, being the Chairman of DFMC, thought that it was not necessary to move a motion. Members only needed to submit project proposals, which would then be handled by the Islands District Office (IsDO) through liaison with lead departments, and the procedure would be simpler. He remarked that it might not be so effective by moving a motion, but DC Members had the duty and right to put forward project proposals.

131. Mr Eric KWOK proposed that the motion be put to vote first. Members might also individually submit project proposals to DFMC. He thought that the discussion would never come to an end if it continued.

132. Ms WONG Chau-ping agreed with Mr WONG Chun-yeung, but opined that the coverage of installation should be extended to the entire community. She opined that since the department concerned rejected the proposal of installing speed enforcement cameras on Tung Chung Road, installation of video cameras might help solve the traffic safety problem on Tung Chung Road.

133. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho opposed the installation of CCTV, proposing that the Police and other departments concerned should first review existing measures. Although he understood that machines might be useful for certain tasks, the widespread use of CCTVs unavoidably aroused public concern that the data collected would be

misused. Besides, he had doubts about the quality of the existing CCTVs installed by the Government. He pointed out that after the loss of electors' information, REO only informed the public and had not been subject to any penalties or taken any remedial measures. He opined that in view of the lack of a proper mechanism, no additional CCTVs should be installed at this stage.

134. Mr WONG Chun-yeung proposed that all Members should abstain from voting on the motion. He said that the original intent of the motion was to request for installation of CCTVs at bicycle theft black spots, but it had been altered to become too complicated to be understood since some Members proposed to install CCTVs at black spots of other crimes. However, he agreed that CCTVs should be installed at crime black spots and understood that it would be too hasty to endorse the proposed installation of CCTVs at all crime black spots. Therefore, he proposed that Members should abstain from voting.

135. The Chairman said that according to Section 22 of the Islands District Standing Orders, no motion shall be withdrawn unless with the unanimous consent of the members present (excluding abstentions) or it was withdrawn by the mover prior to the meeting. In this connection, the unanimous consent of the Members present had to be obtained if the motion was to be withdrawn.

136. Mr WONG Chun-yeung clarified that he proposed abstention from voting instead of withdrawing the motion.

137. Ms Amy YUNG proposed that Mr WONG Chun-yeung's motion be withdrawn.

138. Members voted by a show of hands and unanimously agreed that the motion be withdrawn.

VIII. Question on young night drifters causing nuisance on three carpark rooftops at Yat Tung Estate
(Paper CACRC 24/2020)

139. The Chairman welcomed Mr Simon Paul SOUTHGATE, Deputy District Commander of Lantau District and Mr OR Ching-yan, Vincent, Divisional Commander of Lantau North Division of HKPF, as well as Miss CHOW Wing-man, Manager (Community Relations) and Mr LAW Wing-pui, Senior Officer (Community Relations) of The Link to the meeting to respond to the question.

140. Mr Eric KWOK briefly introduced the question.

141. Mr Vincent OR said that regarding criminal cases occurred at the three car parks in Yat Tung Estate, the Lantau North Division of HKPF had received a total of 323 complaints about noise nuisance and 20 reports of criminal damage during 2016 to 2019. The Police had detected seven cases of criminal damage and nine persons, who were all under the age of 18, were arrested. One of the arrested was convicted and

sentenced to imprisonment of six months, while another was bound over to be of good behaviour. The remaining seven persons were issued with superintendents' cautions. The Police would step up patrol at the relevant locations and strengthen collaboration with the property management companies to ensure safety in the community.

142. Mr LAW Wing-pui said that The Link had taken over the management of the car parks in Yat Tung Estate since 2005. Since the staircases and the exits/entrances on all floors (including the roof) of the three car parks concerned were escape routes, The Link had to ensure that the relevant areas and facilities were kept clear at all times. Regarding the problem of young night drifters, The Link had all along been proactively co-operating with the social welfare agencies in youth outreaching work, and had put up notices reminding the public of not making loud noise late at night to avoid causing nuisance to nearby residents. The Link also arranged security personnel to step up patrol late at night, and give a warning to people who created a lot of noises.

143. Mr Eric KWOK said that the problem of young night drifters had been in existence for more than 10 years and remained unsolved. He suggested the Police conduct surprise inspections between 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. on weekends and long holidays, believing that gathering of young night drifters would be reduced after repeated warnings by the Police. As he indicated, he had been receiving more than 10 complaints about noise nuisance by email each month on average in the past, demonstrating that residents were suffering from much nuisance. He therefore requested the Police to accept the proposal of conducting surprise inspection. Moreover, facilities on the roofs such as basketball courts were often damaged by young night drifters and would be repeatedly damaged after repair. Such being the case, he proposed that The Link should inspect the relevant locations with Members and explore installation of fencing. It might also make reference to LCSD's practice to lock the gates between 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., and arrange security personnel to conduct surprise inspections.

144. Ms WONG Chau-ping said that similar problems also existed at the car park in Mun Tung Estate. There were from time to time young night drifters shouting and yelling on the floor where table tennis tables were provided, causing noise nuisance even to residents of the old villages. She hoped that concerned departments would take follow-up action. Besides, someone had thrown cobbles from the roof garden. Although the case had been reported to the Police, she still hoped that concerned departments and The Link would pay more attention to such situation.

145. Ms Amy YUNG said that a similar incident also took place at Tai Pak Wan of Discovery Bay earlier. Some young night drifters consumed alcohol and yelled on the beach, ending in argument and fight at 3:00 a.m. Although the case had been reported to the Police then, she hoped the Police would pay more attention to such situation.

146. Mr LAW Wing-pui said that the basketball courts on the roofs of Car Park No. 1 and No. 2 were currently provided with gates which would be locked in the early hours. As the roof of Car Park No. 3 was connected to the means of escape, the area had to be kept free from obstruction due to safety considerations. Even so, The Link

was willing to explore other improvement measures under the existing framework and would liaise with Mr KWOK after the meeting for a joint site inspection.

147. Mr OR Ching-yan said that the Police noted Members' views and would step up patrol.

(Mr CHOW Yuk-tong left the meeting at around 2:00 p.m.)

IX. Question on Yat Tung Estate parking fee
(Paper CACRC 21/2020)

148. The Chairman welcomed Miss CHOW Wing-man, Manager (Community Relations) and Mr LAW Wing-pui, Senior Officer (Community Relations) of The Link to the meeting to respond to the question.

149. Mr FONG Lung-fei briefly introduced the question.

150. Mr LAW Wing-pui responded as follows:

- (a) The Link noted Mr FONG's views and proposal. Although the operating costs including statutory minimum wage and maintenance fees continued to rise and the costs for cleaning services significantly increased due to the development of the epidemic, The Link had no plan to adjust the monthly charges for parking spaces in its car parks (commonly known as "rent freezing").
- (b) In order to offer a rebate to customers of The Link's car parks and to attract more vehicle owners to use them, The Link provided more concessionary offers since this April. For example, it provided monthly car park users of all its car parks with petrol discounts and car insurance coupons, etc. The Link would continue to closely monitor the market situation and review the operation of the car parks from time to time with a view to formulating appropriate business strategies and introducing various promotional campaigns.

151. Mr FONG Lung-fei expressed his views as follows:

- (a) Many vehicle owners had reflected the problem with management of car parks. For example, owing to the lack of manpower, when the gate at the entrance of a car park was out of order, the security personnel would remove the gate and collect the fee manually. He was disappointed that lack of manpower still existed in The Link's car parks although it often claimed that the expenditure was huge.
- (b) He criticised the poor cleanliness of The Link's car parks. Cleaning workers were rarely deployed to clean the car parks, and the hygiene condition of the rear staircases of the car parks was bad. He was

disappointed that while The Link claimed that it had invested heavily on car parks in terms of manpower, cleaning and staff salaries, the service level had made no improvement.

- (c) The coupons offered by The Link could not really bring benefits to customers. Vehicle owners said that the coupons were impracticable, suggesting that The Link should reduce or even exempt the rent.
- (d) The increase in parking fee of The Link's car parks was far more than the salary increase in recent years, and high rents would lead to illegal parking. As the vacancy rate of car parks was high, The Link should put more efforts to increase the utilisation rate.

152. Mr Eric KWOK agreed to Mr FONG Lung-fei's views. Being a responsible listed company of large scale, The Link should fulfil its corporate social responsibility (CSR). For example, The Link should set aside funding to support epidemic prevention like other large companies. Having pointed out that The Link had increased the rent by \$652 in total over the past three years, he proposed that the rent be reduced by \$652 for four months from June to September, which could show that The Link stood together with the people of Hong Kong to tide over the difficult times instead of reaping huge profits only and thus build a positive image.

153. Ms Amy YUNG was disappointed at The Link's response. Being a large enterprise, The Link should ride out the difficulties with the community. She supported Mr FONG Lung-fei's suggestion and recommended a 3-month rent free period for keeping the customers. She also thought that since the reputation of The Link was not so good, it would not be effective by printing monthly periodicals for publicity purpose. It would be better to allocate resources to offer rebate to members of the public during the epidemic.

154. Mr LEE Ka-ho remarked that illegal parking in Tung Chung had been a problem under discussion for a long time and one of the reasons for illegal parking was high rent of car parks. He was surprised that the parking fee of The Link's car parks had been increased by \$652 in total from 2016 to 2019, representing an increase of 50%. At the previous meeting of the Traffic and Transport Committee, Members noted that The Link was in possession of most parking spaces in Tung Chung. In the case of unreasonable charges of parking spaces, it would inevitably cause illegal parking on streets. To tackle the problem of illegal parking, one of the methods was to adjust the monthly charges of parking spaces to a reasonable level. He supported Mr FONG Lung-fei's suggestion and requested The Link to provide concessionary offers or adjust monthly charges, thereby proactively fulfilling its CSR and bringing benefits to the Hong Kong people.

155. Mr LAW Wing-pui made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) Regarding the hygiene condition of car parks, The Link was ready to conduct site inspection with Mr FONG and step up cleaning at hygiene black spots to enhance the service level.

- (b) Moreover, The Link understood Members' concern over the charges of parking spaces. It had been monitoring changes in the market environment and therefore decided against adjusting the monthly charges for the time being. In view of class suspension of schools due to the epidemic, the negative impact on operators of trades related to the education sector was great. To alleviate the pressure of the epidemic on nanny van or school bus operators who were users of The Link's car park on a monthly basis, The Link implemented rent reduction of 50% in April for a period of six months until this September. The Link would timely review the operation of car parks. He would reflect Members' views to the company and would inform Members as soon as possible when further information was available.

156. Mr FONG Lung-fei enquired about the feasibility of providing rent concession to vehicles of the transport industry. He said that, as reflected by residents who were practitioners of the transport industry, their income had been substantially reduced due to the epidemic. However, The Link did not timely make adjustment to the charges of parking spaces. As some residents were unable to afford the charges, they could only park their vehicles on the streets and were prosecuted. He suggested that The Link should introduce rent concession scheme for vehicles of the transport industry.

157. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho said that, as learnt from The Link's official website, The Link won gold awards for "Marketing - Corporate Social Responsibility" in June 2019; purchased an A Grade office tower in Sydney for approximately AU\$683 million in July 2019; and announced the establishment of a \$80 million "Support Scheme for Small and Medium-sized Tenants" (Support Scheme) in 2020. He was pleased to learn that The Link received CSR awards and opined that it should fulfil its own CSR since the purchase of asset for investment purpose had indicated that it was making profit. He enquired about the purpose of establishing the Support Scheme and whether small and medium-sized tenants would be provided with loan or rent concession. He enquired about the current vacancy rate of The Link's car parks and proposed that additional concessions be offered to local residents from the commercial perspective. He opined that The Link should not only focus on large-sized tenants, but should also take care of the operational needs of small shop tenants.

158. Mr LAW Wing-pui made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) The Link implemented rent reduction to nanny van or school bus operators mainly due to the direct effect and impact on operators of education-related trades resulting from class suspension of schools during the epidemic. He noted Members' views about the difficulties facing the transport industry and would relay to the company for continuous review of the charge level of parking spaces.
- (b) Regarding Mr LEUNG's enquiry on vacancy rate, since the parking spaces were rented out to car park tenants on a monthly basis, the vacancy

rate and occupancy rate of car parks would change at times. He would communicate with Mr LEUNG about it after the meeting.

- (c) The establishment of the Support Scheme aimed to alleviate the operational pressure from the epidemic on business operators in Hong Kong who were The Link's tenants. In response to the new round of relief measures launched by the Government, the estimated funding of the Support Scheme had been increased from \$80 million to \$300 million.

159. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho hoped that stakeholders such as commercial tenants and car park users would be covered under the Support Scheme.

160. Mr LAW Wing-pui said that the Support Scheme mainly aimed to assist Hong Kong's commercial tenants of The Link's shopping malls. The Link would timely review the Support Scheme in view of the development of the epidemic.

X. Question on Marking Scheme for Estate Management Enforcement
(Paper CACRC 22/2020)

161. The Chairman welcomed Mr Robin YAN, Property Service Manager/Service (Hong Kong Island & Islands)³ of HD to the meeting to respond to the question.

162. Mr FONG Lung-fei briefly introduced the question.

163. Mr Robin YAN responded as follows:

- (a) Regarding improper behaviour or misdeeds of PRH tenants, estate offices would generally display notices at the relevant locations to remind tenants of the Marking Scheme for Estate Management Enforcement (Marking Scheme) under which penalty points would be allotted if tenants were found to be involved in misdeeds such as obstructing corridors with sundry items or throwing objects from height. To tackle the problem of throwing objects from height, HD had deployed a special patrol team for dedicated investigation of cases concerning throwing objects from height in Yat Tung Estate since this May. Apart from posting notices to remind tenants, HD also promoted the message against throwing objects from height through Estate Management Advisory Committees and activities jointly organised with non-governmental organisations (NGOs), with a view to deterring throwing of objects from height.
- (b) There was a total of 218 cases of allotment of points in Yat Tung (I) Estate and Yat Tung (II) Estate since 2017: 149 cases in 2017-18, 49 cases in 2018-19 and 20 cases in 2019-2020. The above case numbers showed a descending trend year by year, reflecting that the tenants' awareness of complying with rules and their civic-mindedness had been enhanced to a

certain extent.

- (c) HD was ready to conduct site visit with Mr FONG to the black spots of throwing objects from height in the estate and, in the light of actual needs, discuss the installation of additional CCTVs or re-allocation of the existing CCTVs to solve the problem.

164. Mr FONG Lung-fei expressed his views as follows:

- (a) Apart from rodent infestation, residents of the same building where he lived complained frequently about people throwing excrements from height. The problem had lasted for six months and the number of cases did not reduce despite the special patrol team conducting patrol in the building.
- (b) He thanked HD for following up on the problem of illegal parking and said that the situation had improved, hoping that HD would continue with the enforcement efforts. Although some people had requested leniency, he suggested that they could use the car park in the vicinity which was free of charge for use at night, but people stated that the location of the parking facility was not convenient.
- (c) Regarding the Marking Scheme of PHEs, he said that many residents had got involved in misdeeds as set out in the Marking Scheme, and the problem could not be tackled overnight. He also expected that MACs would assist in the anti-rodent work and deal with building management problems.

165. Mr Sammy TSUI said that as some people would often throw refuse or food waste from height in PHEs, he proposed that promotional leaflets which were simple, easy to understand and full of pictures for illustration be distributed to tenants when they made the rent payment. He expected that the leaflets would remind some children or elder persons, who did not understand the Marking Scheme, of the consequence of throwing objects from height. Discovering that some residents disposed of their refuse at the lift lobbies, he criticised HD for inadequate publicity so that residents did not know littering would lead to allotment of points.

166. Mr Eric KWOK said that the Marking Scheme had not been properly enforced since the launch in 2003. For example, gambling, throwing objects from height, spitting and smoking were common in Yat Tung Estate, but there were just a very few cases of termination of tenancies due to allotment of points. Under the outsourcing system, PMCs were only responsible for administrative work and had no power to enforce the Marking System even if contraventions were identified. While HD was responsible for the monitoring work, it rarely arranged staff to conduct site inspection and encountered difficulties in law enforcement. For example, it was difficult to verify the residential addresses of residents committing misdeeds. He therefore requested the senior management of HD to consider authorising PMCs to enforce the Marking Scheme.

167. Mr Robin YAN made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) After HD had received complaints about throwing objects from height in a PRH, the estate office would arrange security personnel to step up patrol and keep an eye on the relevant locations, and would arrange special patrol teams to patrol public places and relevant locations in the estate for monitoring. If it was found that the existing patrol routes did not cover the black spots mentioned by Mr FONG, HD could make further arrangement. He thanked Mr FONG for providing information earlier on residents feeding rodents. The tenants concerned had stopped doing so upon the advice of the estate office and HD would continue to monitor the situation.
- (b) He thanked Mr Sammy TSUI for his suggestion of printing promotional leaflets and undertook to reflect his opinion to HD. He indicated that as some tenants of Yat Tung Estate would dispose of refuse near the refuse rooms, HD had put up notices there to remind tenants that penalty points would be allotted for misdeeds. As regards the proposed authorisation to staff of PMCs for assisting in law enforcement, he would reflect the proposal to HD. He said that more than half of the point allotment cases in Yat Tung Estate in the past few years were related to smoking, and admitted that there was a certain degree of difficulty in enforcing the Marking Scheme. Staff of PMCs had encountered violent reaction from persons committing misdeeds in the past and needed to summon assistance from the Police at last. HD would continue to monitor the situation.

168. Mr Eric KWOK said that as someone had thrown glass bottles from height, he had installed CCTV at his ward office in Yung Yat House about two years ago. He considered the problem of throwing objects from height in the estate serious. He had received a complaint from the Chairman of Fuk Yat House MAC, indicating that someone had thrown a cigarette butt from height and burned his clothes in the small hours on 29 April. He requested HD to strictly enforce the Marking Scheme to protect the tenants who were complying with the relevant provisions.

169. Mr Sammy TSUI said that illegal smoking was not uncommon in the estate and had seriously affected other residents. He hoped that the Tobacco and Alcohol Control Office of the Department of Health (DH) would step up patrol and prosecution to enhance the deterrent effect. Nevertheless, he understood the difficulties encountered by PMCs during law enforcement. Besides, some tenants caused noise nuisance from time to time, and he believed that staff of HD or PMCs should have already identified the problem during patrol. He hoped that the Marking System could be strictly enforced to eliminate similar nuisances.

170. Mr FONG Lung-fei said that some tenants had requested the staff of PMCs to report identified misdeeds to the Police for them but were refused. So, he enquired about the authority and responsibility of PMCs.

171. Mr Robin YAN made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) HD had received a complaint of throwing faeces from height in Yat Tung Estate recently, and security personnel of PMC had immediately assisted the residents in reporting the case to the Police. As claimed, individual security personnel had refused to report cases to the Police when requested by tenants. He thought that it was unsatisfactory and undertook to discuss with the PMC concerned for improvement.
- (b) He acknowledged the difficulty in following up on the problem as the definition of noise nuisance varied from person to person. As noise nuisance meant annoyance that would not be tolerated by a reasonable person, HD would handle the cases the same way a reasonable person did, in the presence of two management staff and two tenants for verification. A tenant committing a misdeed for the first time would be given a written warning. However, penalty points would be allotted if the tenant committed the misdeed for a second time and again thereafter despite warnings.

172. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho queried about the effectiveness of the system of joint witnesses. He stated that noise nuisances usually occurred late at night without a regular pattern. He enquired whether HD staff would take follow-up action immediately after receiving the complaints, or stay at the relevant locations for a long time for surveillance. He proposed that tenants might take video recordings to aid the investigation by HD. He said that a tenant in a case caused noise nuisance due to emotional problem and had adversely affected residents living upstairs. He and HD staff had immediately taken follow-up action but the incident had not yet been resolved. He therefore believed that the existing Marking System did not help solve the noise problems.

173. Mr Robin YAN remarked that upon receipt of complaints about noise nuisance, HD would not request tenants and staff of the estate office to visit the scene for monitoring or investigation. Instead, HD would arrange nearby residents for giving evidence, make assessment of the situation and take follow-up action.

XI. Question on support service for ex-mentally ill persons
(Paper CACRC 23/2020)

174. The Chairman welcomed Mr WONG Chi-leung, Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Central Western/Southern/Islands)² of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) to the meeting to respond to the question. DH and HD had provided written replies for Members' perusal.

175. Mr FONG Lung-fei briefly introduced the question.

176. Mr WONG Chi-leung responded as follows:

- (a) Halfway houses for discharged mental patients provided a transitional period of residential care to facilitate ex-mentally ill persons to achieve an optimal level of functioning for the purpose of community reintegration. There were currently 37 halfway houses in the territory, providing a total of 1 594 places. Referrals of ex-mentally ill persons who were in need could be made by social workers and staff of psychiatric rehabilitation units to the Central Referral System for Rehabilitation Services of SWD.
- (b) SWD, HA and NGOs had been maintaining close liaison to provide support to ex-mentally ill persons. At community level, Integrated Community Centre for Mental Wellness (ICCMW) provided one-stop community support and social rehabilitation services for ex-mentally ill persons and persons with suspected mental health problems including casework counselling, promoted public awareness of mental health through group work services and activities, and encouraged people to seek early assistance in case of mental health needs.
- (c) The ICCMW in Islands District was operated by New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association with a branch office in Yat Tung Estate. During the period from April 2019 to March 2020, the Wellness Centre (Islands) of New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association had provided service for a total of 588 ex-mentally ill persons and had organised interest groups, therapeutic groups and public education programmes.

177. Mr Eric KWOK expressed his views as follows:

- (a) The original intent of the programme to facilitate mental patients for community reintegration was positive. As he had repeatedly pointed out at IDC meetings, there were four or five mental patient suicide cases at Yat Tung Estate in 2017. During the Lunar New Year in 2017, a tenant in Fuk Yat House plunged to death. After visiting the father of the deceased, he learnt that the deceased had a history of suicide. However, follow-up action was taken by social workers only for a short period after the first incident. Later, the case was handed over to a subvented NGO which did not follow up by paying visit or by phone. Therefore, the effectiveness of the Joyful@HK campaign was disappointing.
- (b) He had repeatedly reflected the situation to SWD. Despite SWD's allocation of resources, there were still some cases that were not properly followed up. Two death cases occurred at Yat Tung Estate in the previous week, which were brought to light only after the neighbours of the households concerned had lodged complaints about the stink of the bodies. He sighed with feelings about the alienation of interpersonal relationships in an affluent society, expressing dissatisfaction with SWD for lack of proper follow-up on the cases.

- (c) He said that a mental patient had yelled and sung loudly at his ward office, and abused the toilet inside the office. After taking medication, the behaviour of the person resumed normal. He had reflected the case to the District Social Welfare Officer at an IDC meeting, who only replied that the mental patient needed to take medication. However, the person was living alone and was not followed up by social worker. In another case, a mental patient often threatened him with foul language. Both of the above two persons were ex-mentally ill persons under the community reintegration programme. He requested SWD to visit mental patients who were living alone and monitor their compliance with drug regimen.

178. Mr FONG Lung-fei expressed his views as follows:

- (a) After he had assumed the post of DC Member, he soon learnt from security personnel about a woman aged 60 or so, who begged for food in the area. Security personnel and the residents would give her food, and the situation had lasted for six months. After taking up the post, he visited the woman to give assistance to her and had liaised the relevant social welfare agency in Yat Tung Estate which, however, did not take action proactively, probably due to the epidemic. The woman was a person with impaired mobility who had visited the hospital for treatment at his advice and assistance. During his attempt to liaise with social workers and the woman's family, he learnt that she was a divorced woman. The alimony given by her former husband was merely sufficient to pay the rent and made her not eligible to benefit from the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme. The woman passed away last week. Another resident who, as understood to be also a mental patient, passed away last Thursday. He opined that the underprivileged had always been neglected and could not receive direct assistance although there were 10 to more than 20 social welfare agencies in Yat Tung Estate.
- (b) He had liaised with SWD's representative about the problem of street sleeper, which was then referred to St. James' Settlement Integrated Services Team for Street Sleepers for follow-up. During the epidemic, he witnessed a street sleeper foraging for food at rubbish dump. He and a social worker had talked to the street sleeper who, however, refused to accept services offered to him. He had also attempted to seek assistance from social welfare agencies specialising in providing ex-mentally ill persons with services, but to no avail.
- (c) He had a feeling of helplessness in community work. During his residence in Yat Tung Estate for about 10 years, there had been at least 10 suicide cases in which people plunged to their death. Some of them insisted that they were not mental patients before committing suicide while some were clients in cases being followed up by social welfare agencies. He queried how the resources of social welfare agencies were utilised. It had been reported that the annual salary of an executive

director of a social welfare agency was as high as more than \$2 million dollars, but the frontline staff were allocated with scarce resources.

179. Mr LEE Ka-ho expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He thanked SWD for attending the meeting to give response to the question, and was very disappointed with the responses from other departments. While mental health was an important issue, government departments shifted responsibilities onto one another without looking squarely at the problems of mental patients and mental illness.
- (b) As revealed in the Government's data, 13.3% of the population in the territory experienced severe psychological distress, meaning that about more than 80 000 out of 7 million people had mental health problems. However, the waiting time in psychiatric outpatient clinics was up to 117 weeks.
- (c) SWD said that cases in the district were followed up by ICCMW concerned. However, among the 24 ICCMWs in the 18 districts, some still did not have a permanent premise for operation so far, and were renting a temporary premise for operation. He was concerned about manpower shortage of psychiatric services. Professor Sophia CHAN, Secretary for Food and Health, said that there would be surplus medical staff in 2030. However, at present, only a few hundred healthcare practitioners were providing services to mental patients who accounted for about 13.3% of the population. He opined that Professor CHAN's statement was irresponsible.
- (d) Besides, users of some services, such as residential care service for mentally handicapped persons, were facing the problem of excessively long waiting time. As the longest waiting time was 15 years, some applicants deceased in the course of queuing for admission and the situation was unacceptable.
- (e) Thinking that the problem could not be tackled simply by launching the Joyful@HK campaign, he recommended SWD for allocating additional resources and manpower, hoping that the representative of SWD would relay his views to the seniors.

180. Mr Randy YU expressed his views as follows:

- (a) It seemed that some Members at the meeting were taking up the roles of social worker and psychiatrist. He concurred with Mr LEE Ka-ho that the original intent of the Joyful@HK campaign was positive but the campaign, which was completed in March 2018, was not effective. Since DC Members were not professionals, it was difficult for them to remove the discrimination of residents in the local community against mental patients or provide the required assistance to mental patients.

- (b) He had just referred a case to SWD for assistance. Residing at Lung Tin Estate in Tai O, the suspected mental patient would pound on metal objects in the small hours every night. Such behaviour might last for three to four hours and stopped only after residents reported to the Police. However, the person would knock at the doors of the neighbours forcefully in the morning, making the residents nearby frightened without knowing what to do.
- (c) Even if residents had no discrimination against the person, they still did not know how to handle the case. He, the Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council, Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited and OIWA Limited joined hands to launch a care project for ex-mentally ill persons in Tung Chung last year. As all the volunteers did not possess any relevant professional qualification, they might not know the proper handling in the case of emergency. The project aimed to encourage residents to care for and eliminate discrimination against ex-mentally ill persons. However, he queried whether the Government had any plan in long run to allocate adequate resources and help ex-mentally ill persons resume normal life.

181. Ms Josephine TSANG expressed her views as follows:

- (a) She said that it had been 14 years since she started working in the PMC of Yat Tung Estate as Security Manager in 2006. She was in frequent contact with Mr Eric KWOK concerning the problems in Yat Tung Estate. Since 2006, about 60 to 70 persons had plunged to their death in Yat Tung Estate due to mental illness and mood disorder, and each case had been followed up by DC Members. She stressed that mental illness could be controlled with regular medication and caring for the patients was important.
- (b) She said that the deceased of the two dead body found cases last week were singletons. She had offered to be the contact person of several elderly users of the Personal Emergency Link Service (PE Link). Staff of PE Link would call and ask after the elderly users regularly and contact her by phone if the concerned users could not be reached. She queried why social welfare agencies and NGOs could not provide mental patients with the same service.
- (c) In her opinion, the performance of NGOs in Tung Chung in handling patients suffering from mental illness, mood disorder and chronic illness were not satisfactory even the Government had provided them with adequate resources. The situation was also the same in Peng Chau.
- (d) Two young people suffering from mood disorder and mental illness killed themselves by jumping from building. They had not received assistance from social welfare agencies before that. The family of one of the

deceased knew their son had mental problem but did not know how to seek help. The family of the other case had sought help but was unable to obtain appropriate assistance. Moreover, a tenant was once found loitering in the corridor, claiming that she wanted to commit suicide. Security personnel immediately reported the case to the Police which arrived at scene and communicated with the female. Security personnel had also contacted her for assistance in liaising with social welfare agencies to follow up on the case.

- (e) She concurred with Mr FONG Lung-fei's that DC Members were simultaneously shouldering the responsibility of social workers. Nevertheless, they were not professional social workers and lacked the relevant professional knowledge, thus might touch the mental patients on the raw during communication and produce the opposite of the desired result.

182. Mr WONG Chun-yeung expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He held that it was necessary to examine the activities organised by NGOs and the related funding applications at a higher threshold. To cite the Joyful@HK campaign as an example, the social welfare sector remarked that the project did not provide much assistance to the needy. Given the heavy workload of social workers and the hope of obtaining funding promptly, the project proposals submitted by the organisations might not really help those in need, causing the continuation of the problem. He opined that applications from NGOs should be vetted in a prudent manner.
- (b) Secondly, he proposed to increase the number of social workers. The ratio of social workers to ex-mentally ill persons was low. The existing international standard ratio of 1:4 to 1:7, while the ratio in Hong Kong was 1:20 to 1:30. As a result, many DC Members had to take up the role of social worker in the community.
- (c) Thirdly, he proposed re-provision of the Urban Council for improving the living environment of PHEs and solving various problems such as inadequate community facilities.
- (d) Lastly, he proposed that SWD should draw reference from "The Hang Out" bar in Sai Wan Ho established by Youth Outreach to provide similar facilities in designated areas, which would be managed by SWD and provide activities for young people, women, working people or trainees.

183. Mr Sammy TSUI expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He enquired how SWD would monitor the effectiveness of services provided by NGOs to which SWD had provided a lot of funding and resources, such as whether site visit would be conducted on a random

basis. Believing that some NGO reports might not be reflecting the actual situation, he was worried that those in need of care were neglected or not enough home visit had been made to the needy.

- (b) He enquired whether the manpower of relevant NGOs was adequate. He was concerned about the problem of manpower shortage. For example, a staff member who was responsible for home visit cases in a few PHEs might have even less time to handle all the cases during the epidemic. He requested SWD to review the situation.
- (c) He enquired whether SWD's follow-up action would be changed from home visit to residential care service if the situation of individual cases deteriorated. He indicated that residential care service might be more suitable for clients who were unable to take care of themselves or take medication regularly on their own.

184. Mr FONG Lung-fei enquired whether the existing halfway houses were provided in PHE units since he noted that some units were used for accommodation by mental patients and ex-mentally ill patients. Furthermore, it was learnt that social welfare agencies in Yat Tung Estate rallied together to boycott him. So, he asked SWD to clarify whether the agencies concerned had to provide appropriate assistance whenever they were requested for giving help.

185. Mr WONG Chi-leung made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) He undertook to liaise with the relevant service units for understanding the cases and conveying Members' concerns over the follow-up action of cases.
- (b) To encourage people in need to seek early assistance, he said that SWD introduced the Mobile Van for Publicity Service on Mental Wellness last year, hoping to enhance the public concern over the importance of mental health. SWD also encouraged people in need to seek early assistance through activities and publicity campaigns organised by various service units (such as ICCMW). People in need might contact the Integrated Services Centres, ICCMW or other service units in the district which would provide assistance within their service scope or refer cases to appropriate units. He believed that various service units would be willing to provide assistance and would not reject the cases referred by Members.
- (c) ICCMW had always been in liaison with HA's psychiatric department. If referral of some cases to psychiatrists for treatment was needed, communication might be conducted via the above platform.
- (d) He thanked Members for providing assistance to ex-mentally ill persons. Members were welcome to contact the relevant service units, SWD or him direct for provision of appropriate assistance when necessary. He said that if the family members of ex-mentally ill persons took the

initiative to provide information to social workers, it would help them better understand the cases. Social workers understood that it took time to develop mutual trust with clients, so they might need time to collect information and consider the ways to provide appropriate assistance to clients. With Members' assistance, the cases could be handled in a more effective manner.

- (e) Regarding residential care services, halfway houses could provide training for ex-mentally ill persons including social skills, enhance their ability to live independently and assist them in forming the habit of taking medication regularly. Community psychiatric service was also provided by HA to follow up on ex-mentally ill persons in need by community psychiatric nurses.
- (f) Regarding the performance assessment of service units, he said that institutions were required to submit service reports by providing to SWD information such as operational data or feedback from ex-mentally ill persons. If Members identified unsatisfactory cases or had any comments, they might liaise with SWD for discussion on how to reflect to the institution concerned and request for improvement.
- (g) Besides, SWD had always been in search of permanent premises for ICCMWs and would, if necessary, support them in renting temporary premises for provision of service. In Islands District, a permanent premise of ICCMW had already been provided in Yat Tung Estate to serve the residents.

186. Ms Amy YUNG expressed her views as follows:

- (a) She said that there were also cases of mental patients being unable to take care of themselves in Discovery Bay. She had been following up on a patient who was living alone for many years and could not find the family members of the patient. As the two NGOs in the area failed to properly handle the case, she had referred it to SWD for follow-up. She held that these cases could only be handled with the help of DC Members since the support provided by SWD or NGOs was inadequate. However, Members were neither professional social workers nor psychiatrists. Besides, the performance of Members' duties might be affected if they had spent a lot of time on providing telephone counselling to patients.
- (b) She had contacted two staff members of SWD for referral of the case, but no responsible officer had followed up and dealt with the case so far due to staff posting from time to time. She expected that SWD would deploy manpower to closely follow up on individual cases, thereby aiding Members to solve problems and consequently reducing suicide cases.

187. Mr Eric KWOK opined that there were problems with SWD's system and requested the representative of SWD to discuss with the policy bureau, preventing

mental patients' failure to thoroughly adapt to and reintegrate into the community from becoming a community problem. He opined that the resources currently allocated to mental health service by the Government were still inadequate. If the problem had been properly handled by concerned NGOs, there would have not been 30 to 40-odd mental patients plunging to their death in the past few years. He reiterated that there were problems with the existing system. So, he hoped SWD to reflect to the policy bureaux, requesting for concretely responding to the problem of mental patients' failure in community reintegration, and for allocating additional resources to psychiatric hospitals and so on to fundamentally solve the problem.

188. Mr WONG Chun-yeung expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He enquired how many requests for assistance had been received by SWD in the past few years, and whether there were fraudulent cases or cases involving impersonation of patients.
- (b) He expected that representatives from SWD, EDB and ICAC would carefully listen to incidents in the local community as reflected by Members when attending the meeting. For example, some social workers submitted activity proposals merely for obtaining funding without working out perfect plans, and some social welfare agencies rejected Members' request for assistance. He stressed that the problems were really taking place in the community every day and urged the department to pay heed to them.

189. Mr FONG Lung-fei expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He said that he had thought of committing suicide in the past, but could finally free himself from emotional distress. He opined that when mental patients thought of committing suicide, there was a chance to wake them up if someone gave them proper advice in time. He said that a resident once poured out one's troubles in the street and disturbed other residents. As learnt later, the person simply wanted to express one's emotions. He enquired whether SWD had provided dedicated hotline for these cases and pointed out that, as understood, suicide prevention hotlines were difficult to put through.
- (b) He said that a friend of him once committed suicide due to mood disorder, but he did not know how to help this friend. As he thought, SWD should not only ensure regular medication taken by mental patients but should also help them overcome emotional problems. He proposed to solicit assistance from MACs in identifying mental patients and providing referral service for people in need.

190. Ms WONG Chau-ping pointed out that there was a similar case with her. She recommended for encouraging mental patients to take medication on time and reminding mental patients' family members of the importance of taking medication on time.

191. Mr WONG Chi-leung made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) Regarding the case mentioned by Ms Amy YUNG that a mental patient caused nuisance to Members late at night, he was unable to ascertain whether the person had not taken medication on time or simply wanted to talk to someone. He concurred with the importance of taking medicine on time. He said that SWD provided support to ex-mentally ill persons, including those living alone, helping them adapt to community life through casework and various activities. SWD expected that ex-mentally ill persons could build their own support network through the counselling service and activities provided by ICCMW.
- (b) Regarding Mr Eric KWOK's enquiry on discharge of mental patients, he believed that the psychiatrists would conduct proper assessment before deciding on discharging patients and would, where necessary, communicate and discuss the rehabilitation plan with the patients, their family members or medical social workers. He said that social workers would try their best to follow up on cases and discuss with the psychiatrists concerned under special circumstances. He pointed out that it was of utmost importance to maintain communication among all parties concerned and encourage the clients to honestly disclose their situation.
- (c) Regarding Mr WONG Chun-yeung's question, he indicated that SWD always expressed grave concern over the ways to help people in need. He noted the experiences shared by Members and would reflect to the relevant service units. He opined that the work of social workers and that of DC Members were complementary to each other. Different cases would be handled in different ways, while social workers would take the needs of service users into account when designing activities for them.

XII. Question on request for provision of electric floor cleaning machines for Mun Tung Estate
(Paper CACRC 25/2020)

192. The Chairman welcomed Mr HAU Chi-leung, Arnold, Property Service Manager/Service (Hong Kong Island & Islands)⁴ of HD to the meeting to respond to the question.

193. Mr Eric KWOK briefly introduced the question.

194. Mr Arnold HAU responded as follows:

- (a) In August 2018, the Housing Authority appointed Sunbase International Properties Management Limited (SIPML) to deliver property management service for Mun Tung Estate. SIPML was supervised by HD's Property Service Administration Unit, which conducted regular

estate inspection to examine the management work and the effectiveness of SIPML. The unit would assess the performance of SIPML according to a scoring system, and the score of assessment would affect SIPML's chance of another contract award in future. Moreover, when conducting site assessment, HD would provide guidance and recommendation on improvement to SIPML. Apart from regular inspections, HD would also carry out surprise check of all matters concerning estate management to assess the performance of SIPML. Furthermore, HD would maintain close communication with stakeholders, including Members and staff of IsDO, through various means such as instant messaging groups and email. Upon receipt of complaints that required immediate action, HD would instruct frontline staff to follow up.

- (b) Regarding the question on electric floor cleaning machines, according to the contract signed between HD and SIPML, SIPML was required to provide all necessary cleaning equipment and facilities for achieving the required cleansing standard as designated in the contract. Although provision or deployment of electric floor cleaning machine was not prescribed in the contract, SIPML provided and used electric floor cleaning machine in Mun Tung Estate after negotiation because use of these machines could save manpower and enhance the effectiveness of cleaning. The machine was used in the estate on a pilot basis on 27 April 2020 and the result was found satisfactory. Electric floor cleaning machine was used for cleaning on all other floors since May 2020.
- (c) Regarding the proposal of providing additional refuse bins, after conducting review, HD noticed that quite a number of tenants recently cooked at home due to the epidemic and the amount of refuse had correspondingly increased. For this reason, HD had instructed SIPML in April to provide additional refuse bins in the refuse room on each floor of all buildings in the estate to meet the additional demand. At present, the refuse room on each floor of the four buildings in Mun Tung Estate was equipped with two refuse bins.

195. Mr Eric KWOK expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He thanked HD for discussing with SIPML and proactive following up on the matter. As informed by the cleansing contractor concerned over the phone, the new electric floor cleaning machine had been put into service with satisfactory performance which, however, could barely meet the cleaning needs of the four buildings. He therefore suggested the cleansing contractor follow the practice in Ying Tung Estate by deploying two electric floor cleaning machines. He hoped that HD would discuss with SIPML for providing one more electric floor cleaning machine to enhance work efficiency or serve as a backing machine.
- (b) SIPML previously planned to reduce salaries of its staff, causing strong reactions from cleaning workers and security personnel. Nevertheless,

Mr Arnold HAU wrote to him recently, informing him that SIPML had cancelled the plan of pay reduction. He was satisfied with the result and thanked HD for following up.

196. Mr FONG Lung-fei found it puzzling by SIPML's plan of pay cut due to the epidemic. He enquired whether the shortage of cleaning workers in Yat Tung Estate was caused by no pay leave of some workers.

197. Mr Arnold HAU said that he was not responsible for Yat Tung Estate and did not have the relevant information.

198. Mr FONG Lung-fei said that he had just raised the enquiry because the business of cleaning companies should not be adversely affected during the epidemic when the amount of refuse increased.

199. Mr Arnold HAU said that HD always strictly followed the legislation on statutory minimum wage and had laid down committed wages which were higher than the statutory minimum wage. Mun Tung Estate was a newly completed housing estate located in remote area, and it was necessary to hire cleaning workers from Yat Tung Estate in the initial stage upon occupation. Besides, as there was more refuse such as renovation and furniture waste at the early stage of occupation, the contractor provided allowances to cleaning workers, hoping to attract people to work. Consequently, someone alleged that the contractor had implemented pay cut. As a matter of fact, only the allowance of security personnel had been cancelled while the salaries of cleaning workers remained unaffected.

200. Mr FONG Lung-fei was discontented with the practice of attracting cleaning workers to work in Mun Tung Estate by offering allowances, opining that it would lead to shortage of cleaning workers in Yat Tung Estate and the consequential environmental hygiene problems. He also opined that it was improper for the contractor to attract staff to work in Mun Tung Estate and cancel their allowances and bonuses afterwards like pay cut in a disguised way.

201. Mr Eric KWOK urged HD again to strive for providing one more electric floor cleaning machine for Mun Tung Estate.

202. Mr Arnold HAU said that HD would continue to monitor the quality of cleaning service. He reiterated that the contract did not specify equipment or facilities to be used by the contractor for accomplishing the duties of cleansing. . The contract only designated that the contractor had to deliver a satisfactory standard of the cleaning work.

203. Mr FONG Lung-fei urged HD to step up monitoring and attach importance to labour welfare.

XIII. Question on relief measures during coronavirus outbreak
(Paper CACRC 26/2020)

204. The Chairman welcomed Mr WONG Chi-leung, Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Central Western/Southern/Islands)² and Ms NG Wei-wan, Vivian, Senior Social Security Officer (Central Western/Southern/Islands) of SWD to the meeting to respond to the question. The Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB) had provided a written reply for Members' perusal.

205. Mr Eric KWOK briefly introduced the question.

206. Ms Vivian NG responded as follows:

- (a) The Government wanted to expeditiously provide assistance to persons who become unemployed due to the epidemic. Under the existing CSSA arrangement, the Chief Executive announced the provision of a 6-month unemployment support scheme through the CSSA system on 8 April 2020. The CSSA asset limits for able-bodied people would also be relaxed by 100% temporarily. CSSA singleton cases of able-bodied adult and family cases involving able-bodied adult(s) would benefit from the temporary relaxation arrangement. The existing asset limit of CSSA single person cases of able-bodied adult was \$33,000, and the relaxed asset limit of these cases under the unemployment support scheme was \$66,000. The asset limit of CSSA family cases involving four or above able-bodied adults was temporarily doubled, being relaxed from \$88,000 to \$176,000. The LegCo Finance Committee had approved the funding application on 18 April 2020. The unemployment support scheme would be implemented from 1 June to 30 November 2020 to provide assistance to members of the public under the existing CSSA system.
- (b) Regarding the opening hours of Social Security Field Units (SSFUs), as the development of the epidemic was unpredictable at the early stage in January 2020, the provision of public services by SSFUs and other government departments had been reduced. To reduce the number of people gathering and the risk of cross-infection, SSFUs did not open to the public since 10 February 2020. After the epidemic situation had become generally stable, SSFUs were reopened to the public on 9 March 2020. However, owing to the outbreak of the second wave of the epidemic and the increase in confirmed imported cases day by day, the Government tightened public activities again on 23 March 2020 and the opening hours of SSFUs were shortened as well. She stressed that SSFUs had not ceased operation since 29 January 2020. Members of the public might download and submit the application forms via the Internet. They might also visit SSFUs in person to obtain application forms at the entrance of SSFUs, and deposit the completed forms into the drop-in boxes or submit applications or documents in other ways (such as by mail, fax, email and phone). Applicants might meet with SSFU staff at SSFUs by appointment to seek assistance. With the recent improvement in the epidemic situation, the Government announced resumption of

public services in a gradual manner and SSFUs had been fully reopened on 4 May 2020.

- (c) Regarding food coupons, although LWB had no plan to provide food coupons to the ward offices of DC Members in various districts for the time being, it had launched the Short-term Food Assistance Service Projects for providing short-term food assistance to individuals and families who had difficulties in coping with their daily food expenditure. The service was provided by St. James' Settlement in Islands District.

207. Mr FONG Lung-fei expressed his views as follows:

- (a) In January, he learnt from a security personnel that a woman did not have food and a social welfare agency advised him to seek help from food bank. However, as the opening hours of the food bank was irregular due to the epidemic, he had no choice but to buy food for the woman at his own expense. The woman passed away recently. He said that people who could not take care of themselves did not know cooking and only needed biscuit or noodle, hence food coupons were useless for them. He enquired how long it would take to apply for food assistance under the Short-term Food Assistance Service Projects, and whether SWD would immediately provide service for urgent cases requiring assistance.
- (b) If only one member of a family of four was under employment at a monthly salary of \$30,000 while the remaining three were unemployed, he enquired whether the family was eligible to apply for the unemployment support scheme.

208. Ms Josephine TSANG enquired how residents of Mui Wo, Peng Chau, Lamma Island and Cheung Chau could receive short-term food assistance service. Furthermore, she opined that it was not appropriate that SWD staff determined whether an applicant was eligible simply according to their own criteria. She indicated that an application for assistance by a resident who failed to repay the bank loan after her husband passed away was rejected by SWD on ground of ineligibility. The application was accepted by SWD staff at last only after she had liaised with SWD for several times.

209. Mr Eric KWOK expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He hoped that SWD would relax the eligibility criteria for the short-term support scheme. Although the CSSA asset limits for able-bodied people had been relaxed, some residents reflected that SWD rejected their applications due to their endowment insurance plans. It was equivalent to assessing the eligibility of applicant with the original standards, which ran counter to the Secretary for Labour and Welfare's idea of providing assistance to families in financial difficulties. He opined that all the unemployed were eligible for the short-term unemployment support scheme regardless of whether they were holders of Mandatory Provident Fund, endowment insurance plan or stock. Otherwise, the scheme was

not different from CSSA. He proposed that SWD should further relax the eligibility criteria as soon as possible and step up publicity efforts.

- (b) Regarding service units providing food coupons, he said that only Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui provided service in Tung Chung but not St. James' Settlement. He hoped that SWD would provide the name and address of the service unit.

210. The Chairman invited the representatives to give response one after another.

211. Ms Vivian NG responded as follows:

- (a) The Government opined that the provision of assistance to the unemployed for a period of six months through the CSSA system at present could provide the basic needs of living to those affected by the epidemic. Under the CSSA arrangement, applicants who were living with their family members and using shared resources were required to submit applications in the capacity of a family. To be eligible for receiving CSSA, a family had to pass the income and asset tests. The asset limit of CSSA single person cases of able-bodied adult would be doubled since 1 June 2020. The asset limit of CSSA family cases involving four or above able-bodied adults would also be relaxed. The application method of the support scheme was like that of the existing CSSA arrangement. An applicant only needed to submit application to SSFUs, or download and complete the simple CSSA Registration Form for providing information on address, telephone number, identity card number, assets, and so on. SWD would then verify the eligibility of the applicant. Since the relaxation of asset limits would be effective on 1 June 2020, processing of the cases would be formally started on 1 June 2020, whereas applications which met the existing asset limits would be processed immediately.
- (b) As CSSA aimed to protect the applicants' basic needs of living, SWD would check the net disposable capital of the applicant's family. Some insurance plans would pay dividends to the insured who could withdraw such dividends for use without affecting the policies. For this reason, these kinds of insurance plans would be counted as net disposable capital. Moreover, overseas properties or non-owner-occupied residential properties in the territory would also be counted as net disposable capital. She reiterated that the Government aimed to promptly provide people in need with assistance under the existing system by implementing the unemployment support scheme under the CSSA.
- (c) On publicity, the arrangement was still under planning and she would reflect Members' views to SWD.

212. Mr WONG Chi-leung said that St. James' Settlement provided food assistance through various partner organisations, such as Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui

Tung Chung Integrated Services, and Peng Chau Neighbourhood Elderly cum Children/Youth Centre under the Hong Kong PHAB Association, etc. SWD proposed that applicants should contact the relevant organisations for understanding the arrangement before they submitted application for Short-term Food Assistance Service Projects. Having assessed the situation and needs for food assistance of individual service users, the relevant organisation would determine an appropriate period of food assistance (up to eight weeks). The relevant organisation might extend the service period beyond eight weeks, depending on the special needs of individual cases.

213. Mr Eric KWOK asked SWD to provide the details of the unemployment support scheme and eligibility criteria to Members via the Secretariat, so that Members could assist people in need in the community to submit application.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat had sent the details of the unemployment support scheme and eligibility criteria to Members after the meeting.)

XIV. Motion on allocating funds for employing sports coaches during the outbreak of disease (Paper CACRC 27/2020)

214. The Chairman welcomed Ms CHAN Sok-fong, Cherry, Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Islands of LCSD to the meeting to respond to the motion. The motion was moved by Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho and seconded by Mr LEE Ka-ho.

215. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho briefly introduced the motion.

216. Mr HO Chun-fai expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He objected to the motion since the Government would roll out the second round of the Anti-epidemic Fund under which a one-off subsidy of \$7,500 would be provided to those in need and more than 20 000 persons or so would be benefited. Under the initiative, an allowance of \$7,500 would be granted to coaches and trainers working in registered bodies in the past year and more than 17 000 persons or so would be benefited. A subsidy of \$100,000 would be granted to each eligible registered body and fitness centre.
- (b) He opined that it was not feasible to hire 18 sports coaches with an allocation of more than \$2 million because the quota of beneficiaries was 18 only, which would be unfair to the remaining sports coaches and might lead to divisions among them. He understood that the Government's anti-epidemic measures might not be perfect, but it had already provided support to most eligible sports coaches and the related organisations. Besides, various walks of life had been affected by the epidemic. He therefore objected to the motion. Nevertheless, he proposed that the Government should allocate more resources to support the unemployed who could not be benefited from the second round of the Anti-epidemic

Fund.

- (c) He said that DC funds were used for matters relating to anti-epidemics, people's livelihood and district facilities, etc. In view of the limited resource, he was worried that the motion would thin out resources, resulting in inadequate resources for construction or maintenance works in future. He therefore objected to the motion from a long-term perspective.

217. Mr Ken WONG expressed his views as follows:

- (a) Although he did not object to the motion, he pointed out that arrangement for allocation of DC funds had been made at the previous IDC meeting and there was no fund balance for employing sports coaches. He reminded that applications for DC funds should be made by LCSD according to procedure, and enquired of the representative of LCSD whether LCSD would submit such application. He held that it was necessary to first deal with the above issue before considering the motion. Otherwise, it would not only cause embarrassment to IDC but also let the relevant sports coaches down if there was inadequate DC fund for employing sports coaches after the motion was passed. It was irresponsible for doing so.
- (b) He recommended for requesting the Home Affairs Bureau to increase the allocation to IDC. However, since it was already difficult in applying for unemployment assistance, he considered that it was unlikely to obtain additional funding. He stressed that the problem of inadequate resources had to be solved before considering the motion.

218. Mr Randy YU opined that the motion was moved basing on a positive premise. He understood that many coaches had lost their jobs due to the epidemic and it was necessary to enhance the public awareness of doing physical exercise indeed since the people had always stayed at home during the epidemic. Nevertheless, the problem was not a shortage of assistance but unfair distribution. He indicated that the proposed use of DC funds of \$260,000 could provide assistance to only 18 sports coaches, which was a drop in the bucket and unfair. As Mr HO Chun-fai had pointed out, the subsidy of \$7,500 provided by the Government would benefit more than 20 000 persons or so. When compared with this initiative, the motion could only give help to 18 sports coaches and would only benefit one sports coach in each constituency, making it difficult to explain to the other sports coaches. He reiterated that the motion was technically infeasible although its original intent was positive. Moreover, the allocation of DC funds had been endorsed previously and there was no fund balance of \$2.16 million for employing sports coaches.

219. Ms WONG Chau-ping opined that even if there was still a fund balance of \$2.16 million available for use, supporting only one profession might cause neglect of others which were currently in need of assistance.

220. Mr FONG Lung-fei enquired whether there were resources available for LCSD to employ sports coaches. As he indicated, some registered sports coaches previously told him that LCSD had hired part-time professional sports coaches with the funding and revenue from membership fee in the past. However, as LCSD had outsourced the work in recent times, some sports coaches became unemployed and their livelihoods were affected. He proposed that the motion be amended to request LCSD to take charge of employing sports coaches.

221. Ms Cherry CHAN responded as follows:

- (a) To tie in with the Government's anti-epidemic measures, LCSD had suspended all recreation and sports programmes since 29 January 2020. Understanding that the arrangements would directly affect the livelihood of the sports coaches employed by LCSD, LCSD was planning to provide ex-gratia payment to these sports coaches to relieve the financial pressure exerted during the epidemic. The amount of ex-gratia payment for each sports coach was calculated as a certain percentage of the remuneration such sports coach originally entitled for the service provided in the suspended recreation and sports programmes which were scheduled to be held or had been held during 29 January to 31 March 2020.
- (b) During the suspension of the recreation and sports programmes, LCSD encouraged the public to do exercise at home. LCSD had uploaded some physical exercise demonstration videos to its official website and the online platform (YouTube). The target groups include children, elderly persons, people with disabilities, women and working people, etc. The public might follow the videos to do exercise to establish healthy lifestyles.
- (c) Regarding the proposal of employing sports coaches for online teaching, although online teaching had its merits, it had its limitations involved technical matters and venue arrangement, etc. LCSD was exploring the feasibility of the proposal and did not need additional funding from IDC at this stage.

(Post-meeting note of LCSD: Having regard to the continuation of the epidemic, the ex-gratia payment had been adjusted upwards to the full amount of the remuneration originally payable.)

222. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He thanked LCSD and Members for giving comments on the motion in a proactive manner. He understood that sports coaches under sports associations could receive a subsidy of \$7,500 under the second round of the Anti-epidemic Fund. The media and relevant trade unions had ascertained that some football, basketball and physical fitness coaches had already received the subsidy. He understood that since the subsidy was only a kind of grant in nature, the amount would not be identical to

that of the original salary. In fact, there was a discrepancy between the subsidy of \$7,500 and the general salary level of sports coaches. He pointed out that some sports coaches would hire assistants with part of their salaries. Therefore, the funding of \$2.16 million might be used for hiring a coach at a monthly salary of \$20,000 in each of the 18 constituencies for six months, and would benefit more than 18 persons. He opined that if the funding was shared among a few hundred persons with each of them receiving a one-off subsidy of more than \$7,000, there would be no sustainability for the assistance. He stressed that anti-epidemic assistance had to be timely implemented with sustainability.

- (b) He enquired whether LCSD could extend the ex-gratia payment scheme. As estimated, the epidemic situation would not be subsided until September or October, but the ex-gratia payment would be provided up to May only. He enquired whether LCSD would continue to provide the ex-gratia payment if the epidemic continued. Learning that LCSD organised recreation and sports programmes with DC funds, he enquired, if the ex-gratia payment was equivalent to 50% of the salary only, whether it meant that resources would permit to extend the scheme.

223. Mr LEE Ka-ho expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He was concerned about the mode of LCSD's online teaching on exercise. He noted that the physical exercise demonstration videos uploaded by LCSD were in one-way presentation without interaction. The contents of some videos were even out of time and failed to meet the expectation of the audience. He suggested that LCSD should arrange for live webcast of teaching on exercise at social networking websites, and upload new videos weekly to encourage members of the public to develop the habit of regular exercise.
- (b) One of the reasons why he seconded the motion was that LCSD could be allocated more resources for improving the teaching of exercise. However, after learning that LCSD had available resources, he proposed that LCSD should improve the existing measures which could not only provide sports coaches with employment opportunities but also encourage members of the public to do exercise, thus attaining two objectives by a single move.

224. Ms Cherry CHAN responded as follows:

- (a) Regarding Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho's proposal of extending the ex-gratia payment scheme, she explained that the granting ex-gratia payment was based on the employment agreements signed between LCSD and concerned sports coaches prior to the outbreak of the epidemic. Ex-gratia payment was not applicable to the recreation and sports programmes scheduled after April 2020 because they were suspended due to the

epidemic and no employment agreements were signed with concerned sports coaches.

- (b) Regarding Mr LEE Ka-ho's views on teaching videos, relevant section of LCSD had started updating new videos to meet the needs and expectations of the public at present.
- (c) Regarding online teaching, LCSD had started exploring the feasibility with a view to bringing new experience to members of the public and providing job opportunities for sports coaches. However, she reiterated that although online teaching had merits, it had many limitations as well. For example, not all kinds of sports were suitable for online teaching and the mode of teaching was different from teaching at a physical environment. LCSD might consider the views of sports associations and examine the relevant details, including course design, venue support and terms of employment, etc.

225. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He understood LCSD's arrangement for ex-gratia payment scheme. He pointed out that today was 4 May and the earliest date of programme suspension was 29 January. He enquired whether LCSD had reviewed the measures of employing sports coaches and continuing the programmes during these three months. He was discontented that during these three months, LCSD only implemented measures such as crowd control, class cancellation and temporary closure of venues without considering the subsequent arrangement upon reopening of venues.
- (b) He believed that technical issues could be handled with the assistance of ITB; otherwise, why was it necessary to establish it.
- (c) He enquired about the current number of coaches benefitted from the ex-gratia payment scheme and the amount involved.

226. Mr LEE Ka-ho noted that LCSD would upload new teaching videos. However, he said that LCSD only produced and uploaded videos for the public to watch by themselves, which was a rather traditional way. He explained that his suggestion aimed to request LCSD to regularly upload new videos. For example, teaching videos on yoga might be uploaded on Mondays and teaching videos on tai chi on Tuesdays, aiding the public to develop the habit of exercise. He thanked LCSD for its prompt response to the suggestions on teaching videos, hoping LCSD to make further improvement for meeting public expectation.

227. Ms Cherry CHAN undertook to relay Mr LEE Ka-ho's views on updating new videos to relevant section of LCSD. Regarding Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho's comment on LCSD for improper arrangement during the epidemic, she explained that the situation was unpredictable due to the ever-changing situation of the epidemic. LCSD had reopened some venues in mid-March when the epidemic had subsided, but was

forced to close the venues again on 28 March in view of the epidemic development. She reiterated that although there were many uncertainties during the epidemic, LCSD would endeavour to reopen the facilities for public use and organise recreational activities for public participation when the epidemic situation had improved and in compliance with public health-related legislation.

228. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho reminded LCSD of responding to the enquiry about the number of sports coaches benefited from the ex-gratia payment scheme and the amount involved.

229. Ms Cherry CHAN said that Islands District Leisure Services Office would made ex-gratia payment of about \$320,000 in total to about 110 part-time staff (including sports coaches and other part-time staff). The ex-gratia payment was provided by LCSD through internal allocation rather than DC funds.

230. The Chairman invited Members for voting.

231. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho wanted to amend the motion in response to the information provided by LCSD.

232. Mr YUNG Chi-ming reminded Members of paying attention to the maximum number of speeches.

233. The Chairman reminded Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho that he had spoken for four times and asked him to be succinct.

234. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho said as LCSD had just indicated that it had employed about 110 sports coaches in Islands District with more than \$300,000 in the past three months, he proposed to delete the wording “18” in the motion so that LCSD would not be confined to employ 18 sports coaches only.

235. Mr WONG Chun-yeung seconded the amended motion.

236. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho read out the amended motion as follows: “As the novel coronavirus disease 2019 epidemic was raging in the recent months, many sports coaches suffered from substantial loss of income or even unemployment due to class and competition suspension. Although the relevant measures under the second round of the Anti-epidemic Fund had provided assistance for the sports sector, many sports coaches and practitioners could not receive the ex-gratia grant. Therefore, I move that the Islands District Council should provide an allocation of \$2.16 million to the Leisure and Cultural Services Department within six months for employing sports coaches to provide online sports training for residents of the Islands District, thereby reducing the unemployment rate of the sports sector and enhancing residents’ awareness of anti-epidemic and doing physical exercise.”

237. The Chairman invited Members to vote by a show of hands on the amendment.

238. Members voted by a show of hands. There were seven voted for, 10 against and no abstaining. The amendment was vetoed.

(Members voted for included: Ms Amy YUNG, Mr Eric KWOK, Mr Sammy TSUI, Mr FONG Lung-fei, Mr LEE Ka-ho, Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho and Mr WONG Chun-yeung. Members voted against included: the Chairman Mr WONG Man-hon, the Vice-Chairman Ms LAU Shun-ting, Mr Randy YU, Mr YUNG Chi-ming, Mr CHAN Lin-wai, Mr Ken WONG, Mr HO Chun-fai, Mr HO Siu-kei, Ms WONG Chau-ping and Ms Josephine TSANG.)

239. The Chairman proposed that Members voted by a show of hands on the original motion.

240. Members voted by a show of hands. There were six voted for, 10 against and one abstaining. The motion was vetoed.

(Members voted for included: Mr Eric KWOK, Mr Sammy TSUI, Mr FONG Lung-fei, Mr LEE Ka-ho, Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho and Mr WONG Chun-yeung. Members voted against included: the Chairman Mr WONG Man-hon, the Vice-Chairman Ms LAU Shun-ting, Mr Randy YU, Mr YUNG Chi-ming, Mr CHAN Lin-wai, Mr Ken WONG, Mr HO Chun-fai, Mr HO Siu-kei, Ms WONG Chau-ping and Ms Josephine TSANG. Ms Amy YUNG abstained.)

XVII. Reports by Working Groups

(i) CACRC Vetting Group

241. The Chairman said that the report of the Vetting Group was tabled at the meeting. Members were invited to consider whether the proposed amendments were to be endorsed. The implementation of the proposed amendments, if endorsed, were subject to the approval by IDC. The proposed amendments would apply to activities to be organised on or after 1 November 2020.

242. Mr Thomas LI added that a number of amendments to the Guidelines on the Use of Islands District Council Funds (Guidelines) were proposed at the meeting of the Vetting Group on 28 April 2020. According to the rules prescribed by IDC, the Vetting Group had conducted vetting according to the procedure and might give comment after reviewing the Guidelines. The Secretariat had consolidated the comments, which would be put to vote by the CACRC and, upon endorsement, had to be submitted in the capacity of CACRC to IDC for consideration. He invited the Secretary to briefly introduce the various amendments proposed by the members of the Vetting Group.

243. Members voted by a show of hands on the proposed amendment of “To reject applications without project details and to correspondingly delete paragraph 8.2 of the Guidelines.” There were 15 voted for and two abstaining. The proposed amendment was endorsed.

(Members voted for included: the Chairman Mr WONG Man-hon, the Vice-Chairman Ms LAU Shun-ting, Mr Randy YU, Mr YUNG Chi-ming, Mr CHAN Lin-wai, Mr Ken WONG, Mr HO Chun-fai, Mr HO Siu-kei, Ms WONG Chau-ping, Ms Josephine TSANG, Ms Amy YUNG, Mr Eric KWOK, Mr Sammy TSUI, Mr FONG Lung-fei and Mr LEE Ka-ho. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho and Mr WONG Chun-yeung abstained.)

244. Members voted by a show of hands on the proposed amendment of “To add the provision concerning cancellation of projects in paragraph 8.3 under the ‘Variations to Project’ Section.” There were 16 voted for, no against and one abstaining. The proposed amendment was endorsed.

(Members voted for included: the Chairman Mr WONG Man-hon, the Vice-Chairman Ms LAU Shun-ting, Mr Randy YU, Mr YUNG Chi-ming, Mr CHAN Lin-wai, Mr Ken WONG, Mr HO Chun-fai, Mr HO Siu-kei, Ms WONG Chau-ping, Ms Josephine TSANG, Ms Amy YUNG, Mr Eric KWOK, Mr Sammy TSUI, Mr FONG Lung-fei, Mr LEE Ka-ho and Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho. Mr WONG Chun-yeung abstained.)

245. Members voted by a show of hands on the proposed amendment of “To provide documents concerning the vetting criteria and funding ceilings for public inspection.” There were 15 voted for and one abstaining. The proposed amendment was endorsed.

(Members voted for included: the Chairman Mr WONG Man-hon, Vice-Chairman Ms LAU Shun-ting, Mr Randy YU, Mr YUNG Chi-ming, Mr CHAN Lin-wai, Mr HO Chun-fai, Mr HO Siu-kei, Ms Josephine TSANG, Ms Amy YUNG, Mr Eric KWOK, Mr Sammy TSUI, Mr FONG Lung-fei, Mr LEE Ka-ho, Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho and Mr WONG Chun-yeung. Ms WONG Chau-ping abstained.)

246. Members voted by a show of hands on the proposal of “If materials are transported by a handcart, the subsidy will be calculated on an hourly basis with a ceiling of \$45 per hour.” There were 16 voted for and the proposed amendment was unanimously endorsed.

(Members voted for included: the Chairman Mr WONG Man-hon, the Vice-Chairman Ms LAU Shun-ting, Mr Randy YU, Mr YUNG Chi-ming, Mr CHAN Lin-wai, Mr HO Chun-fai, Mr HO Siu-kei, Ms WONG Chau-ping, Ms Josephine TSANG, Ms Amy YUNG, Mr Eric KWOK, Mr Sammy TSUI, Mr FONG Lung-fei, Mr LEE Ka-ho, Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho and Mr WONG Chun-yeung.)

247. Members voted by a show of hands on the proposed amendment of “The maximum number of participants for tourism activity provided with subsidy on food and beverage will be increased from 110 to 120.” There were 17 voted for and the proposed amendment was unanimously endorsed.

(Members voted for included: the Chairman Mr WONG Man-hon, the Vice-Chairman Ms LAU Shun-ting, Mr Randy YU, Mr YUNG Chi-ming, Mr CHAN Lin-wai, Mr Ken WONG, Mr HO Chun-fai, Mr HO Siu-kei, Ms WONG Chau-ping, Ms Josephine

TSANG, Ms Amy YUNG, Mr Eric KWOK, Mr Sammy TSUI, Mr FONG Lung-fei, Mr LEE Ka-ho, Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho and Mr WONG Chun-yeung.)

248. Members voted by a show of hands on the proposal of “The vetting of any activities related to the Chinese New Year, Dragon Boat Race, Mid-Autumn Festival and National Day are subject to the funding ceiling of the District Festival.” There were 16 voted for and one abstaining. The proposed amendment was endorsed.

(Members voted for included: the Chairman Mr WONG Man-hon, the Vice-Chairman Ms LAU Shun-ting, Mr Randy YU, Mr YUNG Chi-ming, Mr CHAN Lin-wai, Mr Ken WONG, Mr HO Chun-fai, Mr HO Siu-kei, Ms WONG Chau-ping, Ms Josephine TSANG, Ms Amy YUNG, Mr Eric KWOK, Mr Sammy TSUI, Mr FONG Lung-fei, Mr LEE Ka-ho and Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho. Mr WONG Chun-yeung abstained.)

249. Mr Thomas LI provided supplementary information on funding items and ceilings of “appliances, equipment, materials and necessities”. The funding items currently included the equipment of seven kinds of ball games. The Vetting Group conducted vetting on two projects involving emerging sports at the previous meeting. However, the relevant funding was not approved because the equipment concerned was outside the list of funding items. As new sports emerged with rapid progress, in response to the views of Vetting Group members, the Secretariat proposed inclusion of the stipulation that “The funding ceiling for purchase or rental of any other appliances, equipment, materials and necessities is \$1,000 or an amount equivalent to 50% of the related costs, whichever is the less.” He invited Members to give comment.

250. The Chairman proposed that Members might vote on the proposed amendments if they had no further comments.

251. Members voted by a show of hands on the proposed stipulation that “The funding ceiling for purchase or rental of any other appliances, equipment, materials and necessities is \$1,000 or an amount equivalent to 50% of the related costs, whichever is the less.” There were 17 voted for and the proposed stipulation was unanimously endorsed.

(Members voted for included: the Chairman Mr WONG Man-hon, the Vice-Chairman Ms LAU Shun-ting, Mr Randy YU, Mr YUNG Chi-ming, Mr CHAN Lin-wai, Mr Ken WONG, Mr HO Chun-fai, Mr HO Siu-kei, Ms WONG Chau-ping, Ms Josephine TSANG, Ms Amy YUNG, Mr Eric KWOK, Mr Sammy TSUI, Mr FONG Lung-fei, Mr LEE Ka-ho, Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho and Mr WONG Chun-yeung.)

252. Mr Thomas LI said that at the previous meeting of the Vetting Group, members had discussed the maximum number of projects of an organisation that could be funded each year. According to the existing vetting criteria, an organisation which had previously submitted community involvement project application might submit application for a maximum of three projects in a year. An organisation applying for funding support for the first time might submit application for one project in the first year. Exemption might be given to individual organisations. Some Vetting Group members proposed the adoption of a uniformed approach of vetting, stipulating that an

experienced organisation might submit application for a maximum of three projects each year, and that an organisation applying for funding support for the first time could still submit application for one project each year. At present, the exempted organisations included those responsible for co-ordinating activities in respective areas, such as rural committees (RCs) in various areas and Discovery Bay City Owners' Committee (DBCOC).

253. Ms Amy YUNG declared interest that she was a member of DBCOC. As she remarked, her ward office and other organisations in the area had also organised activities. As such, she did not concur that DBCOC was co-ordinating the activities in the area. In fact, DBCOC was not capable of co-ordinating activities.

254. Mr Eric KWOK proposed to revoke the exemption given to organisations responsible for co-ordinating activities in respective areas (including RCs and DBCOC) and delete the relevant provisions. Each organisation might make application for a maximum of three projects each year without taking into account whether it was "co-ordinating" any activities.

255. Mr Ken WONG had reservations on the above proposal. He understood that it was necessary to amend the Guidelines to ensure fairness as our society advanced. Nevertheless, to cite Peng Chau as an example, many activities (such as dragon boat races) were held by local organisations in the past, and were then organised by Peng Chau RC after such organisations had ceased to organise them. He proposed to implement a transitional period for local organisations to register as registered bodies so that they could apply for funding to organise activities. He concurred with the proposed stipulation that each organisation could submit a maximum of three funding applications each year. However, as most of the activities such as dragon boat races and Ta Chiu Festival required the co-ordination of RCs, he was worried that if the stipulation took immediate effect, local organisations might not be able to make re-registration in time for submitting funding applications and serious consequences might thus be caused.

256. Ms Josephine TSANG concurred with Mr Ken WONG. Many activities were not organised by RCs in the beginning. For example, dragon boat race in Peng Chau was originally held by Peng Chau Fishermen Association Ltd. With the ageing of the association, the organisation of the race was taken over by Peng Chau RC and so was Ta Chiu Festival. These activities aimed to pass on the traditional characteristics of the local community and to ensure the well-being and safety of residents. Apart from the two activities, Peng Chau residents also wanted Peng Chau RC to organise table tennis, basketball and chess competitions every year. If funding support would be provided to a maximum of three projects for an organisation each year, Peng Chau RC could make application for only one of above sports activities. In this connection, she supported the provision of a buffer period for transition.

257. Mr HO Siu-kei said that Tai O was an area rich in traditional culture. Tai O Rural Committee had been submitting funding applications to IDC for organising more than three activities every year, including brides of boat dwellers, dragon boat races and Mid-Autumn Festival activities, etc. The number of applications would certainly

exceed the maximum number under the new stipulation, hence he agreed to adopt gradual adjustment at this stage, which should not be launched with undue haste.

258. Mr Eric KWOK said that at a previous meeting of IDC, some Members proposed establishing a dedicated fund for RCs to organise activities with traditional and local characteristics, including the traditional life in the waterfront village of Tai O, memorial arch in celebration of National Day and festive lightings in Chinese New Year, etc. These activities were not subject to the vetting criteria under the current discussion. Since general organisations might not be capable of organising major activities such as dragon boat races and the Jiao Festival of Peng Chau in the seventh lunar month, he proposed that, in respect of the restriction that an organisation could make a maximum of three applications, exemption should be given to activities of traditional characteristics, while sports activities would not be exempted. He pointed out that OIWA Limited might organise activities through its district offices each of which might submit three funding applications every year. To ensure fairness and impartiality, all organisations could only submit funding applications for three activities every year unless the above exemption was granted.

259. Mr Randy YU opined that it would be difficult to explain to the public if the exemption continued to apply, but agreed to the need for a buffer period. He understood that the traditional culture of dragon boat races might fade out if RCs no longer organised this kind of activities. Therefore, he suggested that the number of applications should be capped at three times a year for all activities except District Festival and dragon boat races. There should be a buffer period of two years and review of the maximum three funding applications should be conducted before 31 March 2022.

260. Mr HO Chun-fai opined that the proposed buffer period might facilitate RCs to explain the situation to local residents and local organisations as well as consider funding application would be made for which three activities. Although South Lantau RC generally would not submit more than three funding applications each year, he did not want to give a wrong perception to residents that no more than three activities would be organised after he had taken up the post. He stressed that it took time for RCs to communicate with local residents.

261. Ms Amy YUNG also agreed to review the arrangement after a buffer period of two years. She, however, recommended for increasing the maximum number of funding applications from an organisation to five a year during the buffer period. In the meantime, some activities might be organised by other registered organisations. Organisations which had been granted exemption should at the same time carefully select the activities to be organised as the maximum number of funding applications would be reduced from five to three in a progressive manner after two years.

262. Mr HO Chun-fai thought that Members should not be too mindful of the length of the transition period because, as shown in past records, organisations would only submit five to six funding applications at most in a year. They would not abuse the exemption granted even when there was no ceiling imposed. He agreed that a buffer period of two years be given to organisations with a good past record and that review be conducted afterwards.

263. Ms Amy YUNG opined that it would facilitate local organisations to adapt in a gradual manner by setting a ceiling of five funding applications per year. Such being the case, when residents raised related enquiries, Members could explain that it was an allowance during the transition period by making a gradual adjustment of the ceiling from five applications to three after two years.

264. Mr LEE Ka-ho opined that it was most important to draw up the Guidelines in a fair manner. Since a transition period of two years had been implemented, Members might decide which activities would be granted exemption, such as dragon boat races, anti-epidemic activities and Ta Chiu Festival, etc., while application for registration from organisations would be accepted during this period. He concurred with Ms Amy YUNG in that the related matters should be discussed together and put to record for discussion in future. All matters should not be discussed in one go during the review at that time.

265. The Chairman invited Members to take a vote.

266. Mr Eric KWOK proposed to consolidate the amendment as “A buffer period of two years would be provided. A maximum of five community involvement projects (except for activities organised with dedicated provision and highlight local characteristics such as dragon boat races and Ta Chiu Festival) organised by RCs and DBCOC would be funded in 2021/22, and review would be conducted before 31 March 2022.”

267. Members voted by a show of hands on the amendment. There were 15 voted for and one abstaining.

(Members voted for included: the Chairman Mr WONG Man-hon, the Vice-Chairman Ms LAU Shun-ting, Mr Randy YU, Mr YUNG Chi-ming, Mr CHAN Lin-wai, Mr HO Chun-fai, Mr HO Siu-kei, Ms WONG Chau-ping, Ms Josephine TSANG, Ms Amy YUNG, Mr Eric KWOK, Mr Sammy TSUI, Mr FONG Lung-fei, Mr LEE Ka-ho and Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho. Mr WONG Chun-yeung abstained.)

268. Mr Eric KWOK pointed out that the draft of the amended Guidelines included an addition of paragraph 8.3. The addition stated that if a grantee wished to cancel the project, an application should be made to the DC in writing at least seven working days before or not later than seven working days after the scheduled date of implementation. An application should also be made if a grantee wished to change the details of the project.

269. The Secretary clarified that, as prescribed in paragraph 8.2 of the draft of the amended Guidelines, an application should be made to the DC in writing at least 7 calendar days before the original date of implementation if a grantee wished to change the details of the project.

270. Mr Eric KWOK noted the clarification. He proposed to delete an extra Chinese character “平” which appeared after changing the order of two terms “fairness (公平)” and “openness (公開)” in paragraph 10 of the draft of the amended Guidelines.

271. Mr Thomas LI explained that the extra Chinese character “平” had already been crossed out and marked with deletion line. However, as the stroke of the printed Chinese character and the deletion line were overlapping, the latter might not be clearly shown. He added that the change in word order aimed to align with the wording used in HAD’s amended Manual on the Use of DC Funds without affecting the contents of the Guidelines.

272. Mr Eric KWOK noted the explanation.

(Mr Ken WONG left the meeting at around 6:15 p.m.)

XVIII. Date of Next Meeting

273. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m. The next meeting would be held at 10:30 a.m. on 6 July 2020 (Monday).

-END-