

(Translation)

Minutes of Follow-up Meeting of Islands District Council

Date : 2 March 2020 (Monday)

Time : 10:30 a.m.

Venue : Islands District Council Conference Room,
14/F, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong.

Present

Chairman

Mr YU Hon-kwan, Randy, JP

Vice-Chairman

Mr WONG Man-hon

Members

Mr CHOW Yuk-tong, SBS

Mr YUNG Chi-ming, BBS

Mr CHAN Lin-wai

Mr WONG Hon-kuen, Ken

Mr HO Chun-fai

Mr HO Siu-kei

Ms WONG Chau-ping

Ms YUNG Wing-sheung, Amy

Ms TSANG Sau-ho, Josephine

Mr KWOK Ping, Eric

Mr TSUI Sang-hung, Sammy (Left at around 11:43 a.m. and arrived at around 3:33 p.m.)

Mr FONG Lung-fei

Ms LAU Shun-ting

Mr LEE Ka-ho

Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho

Mr WONG Chun-yeung (Arrived at around 10:32 a.m.)

Attendance by Invitation

Ms TAM Kwai-ye, Ann Mary

Chief Architect 2, Housing Department

Ms WONG Shan, Elaine

Senior Architect 2, Housing Department

Mr LAM Tak-keung, Barry

Senior Planning Officer 4, Housing Department

Mr MAN Siu-fung

Architect 75, Housing Department

Mr CHAN Kin-hoi, Daniel

Architect 84, Housing Department

Mr WONG Lok-him, Himmy

Civil Engineer T/230, Housing Department

Mr CHOW Chun-chi, Cecil

Planning Officer 33, Housing Department

Mr TONG Ping-tat

Senior Property Service Manager/Hong Kong Island and Islands Region, Housing Department

Ms KWOK Lai-kuen	Senior Librarian (Islands), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms CHU Ching-han, Heidi	Chief Manager (Festivals and Audience Development), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms WONG Kit-yi, Pat	Senior Manager (Community Programmes), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms WONG Fan-ni, Jasmine	Senior Manager (New Territories South), Promotion Leisure and Cultural Services Department

In Attendance

Mr LI Ping-wai, Anthony, JP	District Officer (Islands), Islands District Office
Mr LI Ho, Thomas	Assistant District Officer (Islands)1, Islands District Office
Ms LEUNG Tin-ye, Christy	Assistant District Officer (Islands)2, Islands District Office
Mr MOK Sui-hung	Senior Liaison Officer (1), Islands District Office
Mr CHAN Yat-kin, Kaiser	Senior Liaison Officer (2), Islands District Office
Mr WONG Kwok-fai, Alfred	Chief Engineer/Lantau 1, Civil Engineering and Development Department
Ms TAM Yin-ping, Donna	District Planning Officer/Sai Kung & Islands, Planning Department
Ms IP Siu-ming	District Social Welfare Officer (Central Western, Southern & Islands), Social Welfare Department
Ms LEE Sin-man	Chief Manager/Management (Hong Kong Island and Islands), Housing Department
Mr LING Ka-fai	District Lands Officer/Islands, Lands Department
Mr KWOK Chi-hang	Administrative Assistant/Lands, Lands Department
Ms TAM Nga-ching	District Commander (Lantau District), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr LAU Cheng-fung	District Commander (Marine Port District), Hong Kong Police Force
Ms KWOK Sze-wai	Police Community Relations Officer (Lantau District), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr LEONG Seong-iam	Police Community Relations Officer (Marine Port District), Hong Kong Police Force
Ms CHOW Pui-sze, Alice	Chief Transport Officer/Boundary, Transport Department
Ms LAI Wing-sau, Winsy	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Islands) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Ms LIM Ting-ting, Sylvia	Chief Leisure Manager (New Territories West), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr KWAN Chung-wai, David	District Leisure Manager (Islands), Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Secretary

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

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

- (a) Ms LIM Ting-ting, Sylvia, Chief Leisure Manager (New Territories West) of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD); and
- (b) Ms LEE Sin-man, Chief Manager/Management (Hong Kong Island and Islands) of the Housing Department (HD).

I. Public Housing Developments at Tung Chung Area 103 and Tung Chung Area 109 (Paper IDC 20/2020)

2. The Chairman welcomed Ms TAM Kwai-ye, Ann Mary, Chief Architect 2, Ms WONG Shan, Elaine, Senior Architect 2, Mr LAM Tak-keung, Barry, Senior Planning Officer 4, Mr MAN Siu-fung, Architect 75, Mr CHAN Kin-hoi, Daniel, Architect 84, Mr WONG Lok-him, Himmy, Civil Engineer T/230 and Mr CHOW Chun-chi, Cecil, Planning Officer 33 of HD to the meeting to respond to the question.

3. Ms Ann Mary TAM presented the paper with the aid of PowerPoint presentation.

4. Mr Eric KWOK expressed his views as follows:

- (a) The department had presented the development plan of Tung Chung Areas 99 and 100 to the District Council (DC) of the previous term. According to the paper, 4 300 units would be provided in Tung Chung Area 99 which was expected to accommodate a population of 13 000 while Tung Chung Area 100 would have 5 100 units for an estimated population of 16 000, bringing the total number of units to 9 400 for a population of 29 000 in total. Tung Chung Area 103 was expected to provide 1 900 units accommodating 5 800 people while Tung Chung Area 109 would provide 1 300 units accommodating 4 000 people. The above four areas could provide 12 600 units altogether accommodating around 40 000 occupants.
- (b) The Government published the Sustainable Lantau Blueprint in 2017 which revealed that Tung Chung would be developed into a low-carbon community. He was dissatisfied that no District-led Actions Schemes or others were provided in the paper to cope with the transport demand of the 40 000 residents in the area with the use of low-carbon public transport and that Tung Chung East Station was not yet completed.

He opined that the Transport and Housing Bureau (THB) should send representatives to the meeting to respond to Members' requests.

- (c) He pointed out that the development plan of Tung Chung Areas 103 and 109 only provided one kindergarten which could not satisfy the education demand of the residents. Given that there was also just one kindergarten in the adjacent Areas 99 and 100, he criticised the department for not taking into account the demand for primary and secondary school places in the area.
- (d) He was dissatisfied with the insufficient social welfare organisations in the area and the adjacent Mun Tung Estate and Yat Tung Estate for providing appropriate support for families, children and teenagers in the area.
- (e) He also wished to know how the employment problem of the area could be resolved. In view that the development of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge and Artificial Island was slower than expected, residents might have to work in the urban area but no transport facilities were provided correspondingly. He requested the Government to provide a comprehensive planning framework for Members' discussion and comments.

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

- (a) He agreed with Mr Eric KWOK that the growth of population in Tung Chung would put further pressure on the already strained community infrastructure in the future. The Government said that Tung Chung East Station would be completed in around 2026 and resident intake should have commenced by then. He enquired if the residents going to the urban area had to take buses to Tung Chung MTR Station for interchange with MTR before completion of Tung Chung East Station, and if so, whether road traffic would be seriously affected. He continued that Tung Chung Station was already very busy at present and might be overloaded after resident intake in the area.
- (b) He pointed out that there was only one kindergarten in Areas 103 and 109 so the school places and child care services were insufficient. He requested the Government to coordinate the planning for transport and other community facilities properly during the development of in public housing.

6. Mr Sammy TSUI expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He agreed with the views of Mr Eric KWOK. Residents of Tung Chung mainly travelled by public transport, e.g. residents of Mun Tung Estate and Ying Tung Estate relied on Tung Chung Line due to constraints faced

by other public transport, such as long journey time and expensive bus fares. If the population increased in Tung Chung Areas 99, 100, 103 and 109 without adequate transport and education ancillary facilities, it would be difficult for Members to give support for the development plan. Since resident intake in 2018, many residents of Mun Tung Estate had to travel by public transport. He understood that opposing the development plan would be unfair to people waiting for public housing for years but he expressed disappointment at the lack of coordination among government departments.

- (b) Tung Chung East Station had been put under discussion by the Legislative Council (LegCo) since 2017 but the location of the station and the method of construction were not yet finalised. The location of the station was not shown in the plan of the department. Resident intake of the above four areas as well as Ying Tung Estate, Century Link and the Visionary had been gradually taking place but the residents could only travel by bus. The construction of public housing near Century Link was in progress and thousands of people would move in. Given that there was only one bridge connecting to the urban area, he requested the department to account for the transport arrangement. In addition, provision of additional parking spaces was not mentioned. While there was a shortage of parking facilities in all areas in Tung Chung at present, the parking space design in Ying Tung Estate was a waste of space. He queried the backward planning standard of the department.

7. Ms Amy YUNG pointed out that the problem had existed for more than 10 years. As demonstrated by the paper submitted by HD, although interdepartmental cooperation was stressed, there was, conversely, a lack of communication and coordination between the departments responsible for planning and implementation. She suggested that emphasis should not only be placed on the number of housing units and population intake but also the supporting facilities such as transport, education and community facilities. She hoped that THB and the department would do a good job in coordination and make good decisions before presenting papers to DC. In addition, she was discontented that the development concept was not mentioned in the paper, resulting in a situation where one could not see the wood for the trees and not realise problems that remained unresolved for years. She hoped that the Government could review the efficiency of the administrative structure and cooperation mechanism.

8. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho opined that the core of the problem was a lack of communication among departments. It was reflected in the paper that there were many loopholes in the transport. He questioned if the departments had attempted to tackle the problems in a pro-active and practical manner, and hoped that the works would not commence simply because no one was against it. Tung Chung would have a population of over ten thousand in the future and its traffic condition would be even worse than Cheung Chau.

9. Ms Ann Mary TAM made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) HD had liaised and coordinated effectively with relevant bureaux and departments including the Development Bureau (DEVB), Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD), Planning Department (PlanD), Transport Department (TD) and Social Welfare Department (SWD) before commencing public housing developments of the Hong Kong Housing Authority.
- (b) In terms of transport, CEDD had completed the planning and engineering study on the development of the Tung Chung Extension Area (TCEA) including public housing developments in 2016 to ensure transport and environmental standards were met. The department formulated the development plan according to recommendations in the report, such as conducting necessary technical assessments, optimising the use of land and increasing public housing supply to cope with public demand.
- (c) As for mass transport, if the proposed public transport interchange was constructed in the adjacent Tung Chung Area 99, the bus stop on Ying Tung Road could be relocated to it to cater for the needs of residents of Tung Chung Areas 103 and 109.
- (d) Regarding Tung Chung East Station, MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) had submitted the proposal on the Tung Chung Line Extension project to THB in late January 2018 according to the information provided by the Railway Development Office of the Highways Department (HyD). The bureau and relevant departments were reviewing the proposal, including the implementation timetable of the railway project to cope with the development of Tung Chung New Town. MTRCL was requested to provide further information and details of the proposal to optimise the benefits of the community. HD would continue to liaise with relevant departments and inform the anticipated completion time of the public housing in advance so that the works of Tung Chung East Station and the Tung Chung Line Extension would be taken forward in tandem with the public housing developments.
- (e) For schools, several school zones were designated in TCEA. The school zone close to Tung Chung Areas 99, 100, 103 and 109 was situated in Area 89 adjacent to Ying Tung Estate. According to the information provided by the Education Bureau, two sites had been reserved for primary and secondary schools in the area and a school allocation exercise was conducted in 2002. However, after review of a number of school building projects in the pipeline having regard to population projections in 2005, the bureau decided to suspend the school building project in Tung Chung Area 89 and pay close attention to the demand and supply of public primary and secondary school places and

projections of school-age population of Islands District including Tung Chung as well as to review the school building plans from time to time according to the actual situation and education policies and commence the school building project to meet the demand where necessary.

- (f) As for kindergarten, one would be provided in Areas 99 and 100 each apart from Area 103, and there were four existing kindergarten-cum-nursery schools in the public or private housing estates within a distance of 500m.
- (g) Regarding parking spaces, the department would maintain liaison with TD. In general, parking spaces would be provided for all public housing projects according to the prevailing Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines (HKPSG). If considered necessary by TD and subject to feasibility, TD may require additional parking spaces. This arrangement was also applicable to Areas 99, 100, 103 and 109. Relevant bureaux and departments were studying provision of additional public parking spaces in the area.
- (h) In terms of bus routes, TD would discuss with bus companies to consider introduction of bus routes and relevant arrangements after completion of the project having regard to the site situation and demand of the area.
- (i) In respect of social welfare facilities, although there were only a neighbourhood centre and an integrated home service centre in Area 103, four social welfare facilities, including some targeting teenagers and the elderly as introduced to Members in a briefing a year ago would be provided in Area 100. After discussion with SWD, the department considered the proposed social welfare facilities in Areas 100, 103 and those operating or to be operating in Ying Tung Estate were sufficient to cope with the demand of the area.

10. Mr WONG Kwok-fai, Alfred said that CEDD had completed the planning and engineering study for Tung Chung New Town Extension, including the public housing development in Areas 103 and 109 in 2016 to ensure that the transport and environmental requirements were met. Reclamation was underway in Tung Chung East and would be completed in phases. Infrastructure facilities would be constructed in phases according to the intake date to meet the demand of the residents.

11. Ms Donna TAM said that the land uses of Tung Chung New Town Extension Area had been set out in the statutory Outline Zoning Plans, and were implemented by government departments in phases. Eight sites had been reserved in TCEA (Tung Chung East) for provision of primary and secondary schools. Other site had also been reserved for the construction of post-secondary and other educational facilities. As for employment, taking into account the working population of Tung Chung, four sites had been reserved in Tung Chung East for commercial uses, including offices and retail facilities. It was expected that a range of employment opportunities would be

provided. She also emphasised that the relevant town plans for TCEA had been completed.

12. Mr Sammy TSUI expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He said that the public criticised the design of some parking spaces in the housing estates under the Hong Kong Housing Authority for causing a waste of land. In comparison, the design of parking spaces in private housing estates enabled a more efficient use of space. He was discontented with the Government's failure in considering from the perspective of public interest or economic efficiency. Taking Ying Tung Estate as an example, there were over 170 vehicles but only 75 parking spaces. Since many people had to commute to work by private transport, he hoped that the Government could conduct a review expeditiously.
- (b) Government premises were frequently criticised for wasting space, such as the one-storey government markets where spaces could be created for use by other organisations if more storeys were constructed. The area of Ying Tung Shopping Centre was small, resulting in lack of space for bank branches. Although PlanD said that ancillary facilities including schools would be provided, no clear graphs or tables illustrating community planning were available. He enquired whether the department would amend the planning. Taking Tung Chung East Station as an example, it would be constructed in the vicinity of Ying Tung Estate according to the original planning but its location had not yet been finalised. He hoped that the department could provide the planning details clearly.
- (c) In terms of education, he requested the department to account for the sites selected for the premises of post-secondary colleges. In addition, PlanD had not indicated the location and use of the bus stops or whether parking spaces would be provided at the public transport interchange (PTI) or premises would be constructed thereat. He opined that HD should take into account the community facilities in the development of public housing and be in close liaison with other departments.

13. Ms Amy YUNG expressed her views as follows:

- (a) As for employment, she was pleased that PlanD had reserved four sites in the area for commercial uses to provide more employment opportunities for the residents. She enquired about the area and uses of the land, and hoped that relevant planning could take into consideration the employment needs of the residents. Pointing out that monopoly was serious in the area, she hoped that PlanD could make plans for provision of a market where small business operators could sell dry and wet goods.

- (b) Although primary and secondary schools as well as post-secondary colleges would be provided in the area according to EDB, the secondary school net concerned was not yet confirmed. In addition, distribution of schools in Tung Chung and Discovery Bay was uneven. For example, despite approving the operation of a Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) school by the Catholic Church in Discovery Bay in 2000, EDB said that it had no plan to develop the school at the end of last year. She opined that the school should be constructed by developers so there was no need to use government resources. In addition, many students were on the waiting list for enrolment into a DSS school operated by YMCA of Hong Kong in Tung Chung. She was worried that the situation would worsen when the population of Tung Chung further increased by over ten thousand. She criticised EDB for its slow response and requested a careful examination of delineation of school nets to avoid students in Islands District making long journeys to school.
- (c) The department pointed out that MTRCL had planned for construction of an MTR station in Tung Chung East since 2018 whereas resident intake in the area was expected to take place in 2025 or 2026. With only seven years apart, she questioned if the estimation was reasonable.

14. Mr Eric KWOK expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He was dissatisfied with the response from the Government and pointed out that there had been pressing demand for child care services in Lantau South, Yat Tung Estate, Mun Tung Estate and Ying Tung Estate. He had received over 500 requests for assistance from residents in Mun Tung Estate looking for kindergarten places and child care services. He pointed out that some students had to commute to schools in Tseung Kwan O and their parents did not know what to do with it. The situation was worrying. He noted that the Government would reserve land in the vicinity of Century Link adjacent to Ying Tung Estate for construction of kindergartens and primary schools. According to the statistics of EDB, there were an average of 1.3 children per family. Given that there were a total of 12 600 units in Tung Chung Areas 99, 100, 103 and 109, child care service and primary school places for around 2 500 children would be required. However, with only one primary school and one kindergarten available, there was a serious shortage of school places in TCEA.
- (b) He criticised the Government for lack of planning on PTI and poor shuttle bus service of Mun Tung Estate and Yat Tung Estate. According to the standards set out by the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB), one community hall should be provided for every 18 000 persons. As Tung Chung Areas 99, 100, 103 and 109 had around 40 000 residents in total, there should be four community halls but the department made no mention of the above. He opined that music and cultural education was of vital

importance to children so facilities including community halls, libraries, indoor sports centres and swimming pools should be provided. He requested the Chairman to convene an ad hoc meeting and ask HAB, THB, TD, EDB, PlanD and SWD to send representatives to the meeting to explore the solutions.

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

- (a) He thanked the representative of HD for giving a detailed response but expressed concern over the transport problems. Although the department mentioned that relevant report had been submitted to LegCo in 2018, the Secretary for Transport and Housing said that there was no concrete timetable and commissioning date of Tung Chung Line Extension in reply to questions in LegCo in early 2019. Despite having a population of more than ten thousand, Yat Tung Estate had not been provided with a MTR station since its completion 20 years ago. Roads in Tung Chung were congested with buses and most of them were shuttle buses in the area. Route no. 38 connecting Yat Tung Estate to other areas had the highest frequency. He wondered why the department did not construct a new MTR station early to resolve traffic congestion in Tung Chung. He opined that high volume of shuttle buses occupied road space which not only affected Yat Tung Estate and the town centre but also the entire Tung Chung.
- (b) The situation of other ancillary facilities was similar. With relevant demand projections made, he enquired why the Government did not plan in advance and put it off until after resident intake. In addition, in response to the department's remarks that the number of kindergartens constructed would be proportional to the land area, he considered it an estimation and future demand might not be satisfied. He was concerned that there would be a shortage of school places so some residents had to commute to schools in Tseung Kwan O. He requested the Government to provide adequate ancillary facilities in the area before arranging resident intake.

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

- (a) He criticised the projected works schedule of Tung Chung East MTR Station as impractical, noting that the delay in construction of the MTR Shatin to Central Link was due to various factors and the Cheung Chau Community Hall construction project kicked off after the residents had been fighting for it for around 20 years. He wondered why the Government considered it possible to complete the works within five to seven years as it usually took 10 to 20 years to construct a facility, and hoped that the department would set the works schedule carefully.

- (b) He pointed out that a certified organic farm and bee farm were supposed to be provided at two road sections near the planned reclamation sites at Tung Chung West Station and in Yat Tung Estate, and enquired of CEDD why the two projects were cancelled. He pointed out that there were brownfield sites or abandoned land near the road sections and hoped that the department could pay extra attention to the matter.

17. Ms Ann Mary TAM responded as follows:

- (a) Regarding the problem of parking spaces raised by Mr Sammy TSUI, while HD determined the ratio of parking spaces according to HKPSG, TD estimated the number of parking spaces required in the area in view of the latest development of the area and its vicinity. HD would discuss with TD to provide sufficient parking spaces.
- (b) As for the design of parking spaces, all public housing adopted the “optimised land use and land specific design” approach, and the design of parking spaces of different areas might vary. The department would take into account different factors including the total plot ratio, terrain, area and topography of the sites and the ancillary facilities needed during design and in deciding whether parking spaces should be provided on or above ground or at basement. Members’ views would also be considered to achieve the objective of “optimised land use and land specific design”.
- (c) Regarding community halls, according to the information provided by Islands District Office (IsDO), discussion with LCSD on the construction of a community hall in Tung Chung Area 107 near Area 39 was in progress. LCSD would closely monitor the progress of the project.

18. Ms Donna TAM supplemented as follows:

- (a) PlanD reserved land for community and social welfare facilities according to the HKPSG and requests of government departments. For community halls, they are provided by the Home Affairs Department (HAD) according to local demand. PlanD would reserve land for such facilities upon request of the HAD. Currently, there is a community hall in Tung Chung, land has also been reserved for the construction of a community hall and indoor sports centre in Area 107B. HAD and LCSD were conducting preliminary planning in hope of early implementation.
- (b) In response to the Members’ request for planning details of Tung Chung, she presented the Recommended Outline Development Plan formulated in 2016 for the planning and engineering study, which set out the recommended land uses of TCEA. The Government had consulted the Islands District Council (IDC) and local residents several times at the

studying stage and had adopted public views. The relevant land uses have been included in the statutory Outline Zoning Plan (OZP) which is a public document available for public inspection for their understanding of the development of Tung Chung. The OZP set out the planned use of different sites, including primary schools, secondary schools and post-secondary institution.

- (c) As for the employment issues mentioned by Ms Amy YUNG, she pointed out that PlanD would not restrict planned commercial uses, and would encourage diverse commercial development, including offices and retail facilities. PlanD would request HD or the developers to provide small-scale commercial facilities such as small shops in residential sites to satisfy the daily needs of the residents and provide appropriate employment opportunities.

19. The Chairman said that MTRCL had submitted the proposal to relevant bureau in 2018 but no implementation timetable for Tung Chung East Station was available. Regarding school sites, he believed that all Members wished to obtain the latest information about school places and school net distribution. As such, he proposed writing to DEVB and THB to request the latest information on the transport and educational matters about which Members were concerned and wanted to get a grasp of the situation and raise enquiries.

20. Mr Eric KWOK proposed convening an ad hoc meeting to discuss the above item. He pointed out that the community hall, indoor sports centre and library in Mun Tung Estate were not provided for TCEA's use. The population of Yat Tung Estate was already 46 000 five to six years ago, and the population of Mun Tung Estate had increased 12 000 last year. Together, 58 000 people would only have a community hall. According to HKPSG, a community hall should be provided for every 18 000 persons. The community hall was unable to cope with the demand of residents of Areas 99, 100, 103 and 109.

21. Mr Sammy TSUI enquired if additional storeys could be constructed within the shopping malls and markets to optimise space and land uses, including banks, community halls, libraries and indoor sports centres. He said that the shopping malls in Tung Chung and other areas were only a few storeys high and hoped that their design could be improved.

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

- (a) He moved a provisional motion to request the departments to account for the latest Tung Chung New Town extension project in detail at the next meeting and launch a series of public education activities to inform Tung Chung residents of the future development of the area.
- (b) He pointed out that the paper on reclamation in Tung Chung was largely the same as the paper for last meeting and hoped that the Government

could provide a clearer picture of the situation. Now that the population of Tung Chung East had increased to 270 000 from 100 000 in 2014 when the consultation exercise was conducted, he hoped that the result of the latest consultation would be provided at the next meeting.

- (c) He proposed that the Government should step up publicity for the development and consultation exercise of Tung Chung East and Tung Chung West lest Members were under the impression that they were left in the dark about construction of community facilities (such as provision of MTR stations). He requested details of the Tung Chung New Town development project so that Members could assist in publicity activities in the community.

23. Ms Amy YUNG expressed regret over EDB's failure to provide any information. She considered the school net delineation ambiguous and hoped that an ad hoc meeting could be convened for discussion on school planning, school nets and modes of school operation in Discovery Bay and Peng Chau, with EDB attending the meeting to introduce its policies, concepts and priority areas.

24. Mr Ken WONG shared the same view as Ms Amy YUNG that the school nets in Peng Chau were improperly delineated and that EDB should be invited to the meeting.

25. Ms Ann Mary TAM said that although the department wished to optimise land use, the number of storeys of a shopping mall was subject to constraints and features of the site. For shopping malls situated on the lower floors of residential buildings, there might be height constraints and no more storeys were allowed. In addition, individual shopping malls might not be constructed in places with denser greenery coverage requirements. All in all, the department would construct commercial facilities in the two areas as necessary and fully utilise the plot ratio as far as possible.

26. The Chairman expressed his views as follows:

- (a) As for the provisional motion moved by Mr WONG Chun-yeung, he said that sufficient time should be provided for Members to consider before a vote was taken according to the Standing Orders.
- (b) He proposed issuing letters to DEVB, THB and EDB in the name of DC to give briefings on the Tung Chung New Town development, reclamation arrangements, timetable (such as the time of resident intake and completion of ancillary facilities) and school nets, etc. and also to report to Members the latest situation and provide detailed information so that Members could explain the situation to the voters and residents. He believed that Members were in favour of construction of public housing in Areas 103 and 109.

27. Mr Eric KWOK proposed inviting SWD and HAB to attend the briefing to discuss the development of various areas of TCEA.

28. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho said that a vote should be taken on whether the provisional motion should be processed first having regard to the experience at the previous meeting. If over half of the Members voted in favour, the provisional motion should be accepted.

29. Mr WONG Chun-yeung said that he could write down the provisional motion right away and submit it to DC for consideration. He opined that the situation was similar to the previous meeting that no immediate discussion was required and the provisional motion was moved to secure attendance of government department representatives at the next meeting to explain the latest development of Tung Chung East. In his opinion, the motion should be processed immediately.

30. The Chairman said that the arrangement for moving motions had been clearly set out in the Standing Orders. Notice should be given 10 clear working days before the meeting and the provisional motions were subject to the Chairman's approval according to their urgency. The last provisional motion involved anti-epidemic matters was moved at his discretion and was supported by over half of the Members. He considered it unnecessary to vote on the motion under discussion as he had proposed a solution (i.e. inviting DEVB, THB, EDB, etc. to DC and to report the latest situation).

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

- (a) He pointed out that the provisional motion moved by Mr WONG Chun-yeung included requests for the departments to conduct public consultation and give the public an account which were however not covered by the briefing.
- (b) Although provisional motions moved by Members were subject to the Chairman's approval according to Section 17 of the Standing Orders, he saw no reason why the Chairman should reject provisional motions relating to matters about which Members were concerned.

32. The Chairman said that the 18 Members present were accountable to their voters and should not vote on a motion in haste. Unlike the motion raised last time, the motion under discussion was not urgent. In addition, Members had not obtained sufficient information despite raising a number of questions at the meeting, so a briefing should be arranged to discuss the matter further. He proposed that the Members concerned should prepare a detailed motion and submit it at the next DC meeting for voting by Members after careful consideration.

33. Ms Amy YUNG requested inviting the Hospital Authority (HA) and Department of Health to attend the briefing. She pointed out that North Lantau Hospital (NLH) had been overloaded and was worried that the disease would become

endemic. Therefore, she considered it necessary to pay attention to the medical work arrangements and proposed expansion of NLH.

34. The Chairman said that relevant arrangements would be made as this concerned the well-being of residents.

(Mr WONG Chun-yeung arrived at around 10:32 a.m. and Mr Sammy TSUI left at around 11:43 a.m.)

II. Recreation and Sports Programmes organised by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department in Islands District for April 2020 to March 2021
(Paper IDC 22/2020)

35. The Chairman welcomed Mr KWAN Chung-wai, David, District Leisure Manager (Islands) of Leisure and Cultural Services Department to the meeting to present the paper.

36. Mr David KWAN briefly presented the paper.

37. Mr LEE Ka-ho thanked Mr David KWAN for his detailed presentation and expressed his views as follows:

- (a) It was shown on the paper that some training courses outnumbered the others. For example, there were 60 briefings on proper ways to use fitness equipment properly but only 52 Tai Chi courses. He enquired of LCSD the criteria used in deciding the number of training courses.
- (b) To his understanding, the Bun Carnival was cancelled due to the disease. He enquired if any other activities were rescheduled for the same reason, and if yes, what the details were.

38. Mr Eric KWOK proposed that LCSD should organise mini-tennis, futsal, basketball and volleyball activities at Tung Chung Road Soccer Pitch for children and teenagers.

39. Ms Amy YUNG said that most programmes of the Bun Festival of this year would be cancelled due to the coronavirus disease. While understanding that LCSD had to make the payment of \$575,500 to the contractor as stipulated in the contract, she enquired if the project savings could be allocated to other recreational activities.

40. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho thanked the representative of the department for his detailed explanation, and said that the department and DC had unanimously agreed at earlier meetings to cancel some programmes of the Bun Carnival. However, he was worried that the remaining activities might be cancelled due to changes in circumstances. He proposed that the department should formulate a contingency plan to map out the arrangements after cancellation of activities. He was pleased to

note the confirmed reduced costs in activities from \$3 million to \$0.9 million at the last meeting, and proposed that the department should convene a meeting in, say, December each year as early as possible for discussion on next year's Bun Carnival so the contract could be terminated in time if necessary.

41. Mr David KWAN made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) When planning the number of training courses for the coming year, the department would study the changes in population and age structure of the community and organise diversified training courses/recreational activities. Since it was relatively difficult to recruit instructors and part-time staff for organising the training courses in Islands District, the department had to consider the availability of instructors and part-time staff before organising additional classes for popular courses. In addition, fewer Tai Chi training courses could be organised as the courses were made up of more sessions than other training courses.
- (b) Apart from the current outbreak of coronavirus disease, LCSD might have to cancel activities due to weather or enrolment conditions. As for "Bun Carnival 2020", LCSD and Hong Kong Cheung Chau Bun Festival Committee (HKCCBFC) had discussed the progress of the preparatory work and alternative feasible proposals for the programmes of "Bun Carnival 2020" at the second organising meetings on 13 February 2020, having regard to the latest development of the coronavirus disease and the response level under the "Preparedness and Response Plan for Novel Infectious Disease of Public Health Significance" being raised to the Emergency Level. Cancellation of some programmes was unanimously agreed eventually. Due to the commencement of some preparatory work and services/procurement contracts awarded last year, the department had listed on the paper the expenditure on terminating the programmes at different stages for Members' perusal at the meeting on 13 February. The earlier termination of service/procurement contracts with contractors, the amounts payable would be comparatively less. In light of the current experience, the department would review the feasibility of including the amounts payable on termination of contract at different stages as appropriate when preparing the contracts of service/procurement contracts in future.
- (c) The cost savings in some programmes of the Bun Carnival could be re-allocated to other activities in principle as DC fund was yet to be granted.
- (d) Organisation of a variety of activities at Tung Chung Road Soccer Pitch proposed by Mr Eric KWOK was feasible if additional resources were available. The department would discuss with Mr Eric KWOK after the meeting.

42. Mr WONG Chun-yeung thanked Mr David KWAN for attending the meeting. He enquired of the department the number of community activities cancelled due to the coronavirus disease, and whether the activities originally scheduled for early this year such as Cantonese Opera Performance in Celebration of New Year would be held later or similar activities would be held in the fourth quarter.

43. Mr David KWAN responded as follows:

- (a) The department had cancelled all activities after Lunar New Year. Due to resource allocation constraint for the financial year, the substituting activities could not be arranged.
- (b) The department was willing to organise substituting activities in the financial year (2020/2021) but stated that the facilities of LCSD, apart from serving as venues for the activities organised by the department, the facilities also opened for the use of the public and local organisations. As a result, whether relevant recreational and sports activities could be organised would be subject to the development of coronavirus disease, availability of resources and whether reopening of the sports facilities was effected by then, while striking a balance among the needs among all users.

44. The Chairman said that Members could raise other views, if any, at the Community Affairs, Culture and Recreation Committee (CACRC) meeting, and hoped that the department could organise more activities for the residents if resources were available. He asked Members to review the plan in paragraph 10 of the paper and endorse the funding application.

45. Members voted by a show of hands. The result was 16 votes in favour, 0 against and one abstained. The funding application was endorsed.

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

III. 2020/2021 Programme Plan for Public Libraries in the Islands District by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department
(Paper IDC 23/2020)

46. The Chairman welcomed Ms KWOK Lai-kuen, Elaine, Senior Librarian (Islands) of LCSD to the meeting to present the paper.

47. Ms Elaine KWOK briefly presented the paper.

48. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho requested statistics on the use of the libraries concerned, such as the difference between those of last year and the year before to find out the change in number of library users. To his understanding, the libraries updated their collection regularly. He enquired if the computers and technological services would be upgraded. As learnt from the internet, computers in the libraries were of old models and he was concerned if they could cater to the needs of children and teenagers. He enquired if Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL) cooperated with any organisations or publishers to launch promotional activities.

49. Mr Eric KWOK noted that HKPL had organised the STEM activity series which he considered conducive to the development of children. He proposed provision of a mobile library in Mun Tung Estate where resident intake would take place soon to satisfy the reading needs of the residents.

50. Ms Amy YUNG expressed her views as follows:

- (a) She wished to follow up on the mobile library service mentioned by Mr Eric KWOK. To her understanding, the existing mobile libraries had been fully utilised. However, the population of Islands District was on the increase so she hoped that Ms Elaine KWOK could consider provision of additional mobile libraries. She said that there had been pressing needs for mobile library service in Discovery Bay but only one mobile library provided service on Tuesdays and Thursdays therein, which could not satisfy the demand of the residents.
- (b) She noted the suggestion for book purchase programme implemented by HKPL which allowed the public to recommend books to add to the library collection. She discovered that some books widely searched online recently were not available in the libraries or could not be borrowed although in the library collection. Since the residents of Islands District seldom visited the large libraries in the urban areas and mainly relied on the reservation system of HKPL for delivering the requested items to outlying islands, she proposed expanding the purchase suggestion programme. In addition, she enquired about the measures taken to encourage the public to recommend books and the criteria for accepting suggestions.

51. Mr LEE Ka-ho enquired if LCSD had conducted reviews on the activities organised with a view to attracting more participants in future. According to the overview of libraries activities 2019 set out in the paper, the attendance per subject talk, workshop and tour was less than 20 on average. However, the attendance of the subject talks this year was estimated to be 30 to 80. He enquired why the estimated attendance was way higher than the actual number and hoped that HKPL would conduct reviews and look into ways to boost attendance.

52. Ms Elaine KWOK responded as follows:

- (a) In response to the question of Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho, the department could provide information such as statistics of this year and last year for comparison upon request by DC and would follow up on the matter in due course. Apart from the book collection, computer hardware, furniture and equipment of the libraries were upgraded regularly. In addition, LCSD obtained funding approval from LegCo in 2019 for development of “Smart Library” system which included provision of self-service facilities and upgrade of computer equipment. The department would also propose improvement measures and seek support and funding from IDC. With the funding approved for District Minor Works projects, the department could go ahead with the plans to improve library facilities in the district.
- (b) Regarding the questions on the STEM activity series raised by Mr Eric KWOK, it was a highlight of Islands District in 2020/2021 and was allocated with more funds than other activities. The STEM activities were relatively more diversified, interactive and flexible which were expected to foster scientific development in primary and secondary schools and enhance learning interest. Students’ potential in innovation could be unleashed and their problem-solving skills could be raised. She hoped that Members would support the activities.
- (c) As for provision of mobile library service in Mun Tung Estate proposed by Mr Eric KWOK and purchase of an additional mobile library van for Discovery Bay and Islands District proposed by Ms Amy YUNG, the department noted the proposals but its resources were limited at present regrettably. The first phase of “Library-on-Wheels” Pilot Project was launched in December 2019 to serve areas including Ying Tung Estate in Islands District, with an aim to promote self-service and electronic resource services in libraries. The second phase of the pilot scheme would be implemented at other locations later. Since Mun Tung Estate was not provided with mobile library service, it might be included in the next phase of programme. The department also planned to send the “library-on-wheels” to various locations in each district including Discovery Bay during public holidays. Details would be provided in due course.
- (d) She thanked Ms Amy YUNG for inviting Members to participate in the suggestion for book purchase programme and recommend a number of books. Apart from recommendations from members of the public via the book suggestion forms, the department consulted Members and sought the advice of professional bodies on collection of certain subject disciplines. After collecting the suggestions, the department would consider if the books recommended were consistent with the direction of book collection, fulfilled the objectives of encouraging self-learning, profitable use of leisure time, etc. and also assess the content and quality of the books. The selection criteria for library purchase was set out on

the website of HKPL, and relevant details could be provided to Ms Amy YUNG after the meeting for information.

- (e) Regarding activity reviews mentioned by Mr LEE Ka-ho, HKPL conducted mid-year review and submitted reports to DC. It also attached importance to diversity of activities. For example, carnivals, talks of different subjects and activities were held portraying the culture and history of the district. The department put on posters, disseminated relevant information online and sent letters to schools and relevant organisations to step up promotion. As usual, Members would be invited to attend the activities and were welcome to assist in publicity work.

53. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho enquired if the department had drawn reference from libraries in other countries, and pointed out that the best library was in Finland, which was closely related to daily life and equipped with advanced facilities including 3D printers and virtual reality (VR) equipment. He opined that similar facilities and services should be provided in libraries in Hong Kong to benefit people from all walks of life including children and teenagers and make learning in libraries a more enjoyable experience. It should also seek to enhance the image of libraries among the youth and to ensure optimal use of government facilities.

54. Ms Elaine KWOK thanked Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho for his views which she would reflect to the department, and agreed that it was necessary to draw reference from the experience of their counterparts. She said that application of 3D printing technique should be feasible for some programmes, and would be considered when programmes were organised in future as the programme plan for this year had already been set down.

55. The Chairman asked Members to consider endorsing the proposals and relevant funding applications at Annex 2.

56. Members voted by a show of hands. The result was 16 votes in favour, 0 against and abstained. The proposals and funding application was endorsed.

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

IV. Proposed Tao Arts Islands - Community Arts Scheme by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department
(Paper IDC 24/2020)

57. The Chairman welcomed Ms CHU Ching-han, Heidi, Chief Manager(Festivals and Audience Development), Ms WONG Kit-yi, Pat, Senior Manager(Community Programmes) and Ms WONG Fan-ni, Jasmine, Senior Manager(New Territories South), Promotion of LCSD to the meeting to present the paper.

58. Ms Heidi CHU briefly presented the paper.

59. Mr Eric KWOK asked the department to provide more information on TOUCH Centre of the Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council (TOUCH Centre), such as the service direction. To his understanding, “Defying Gravity” was a musical training programme mainly targeting ethnic minority residents. He enquired if the programme would be conducted in English or Cantonese and whether it would be open to the locals to promote cultural integration.

60. Ms Amy YUNG opined that the “Singing Musical Hits” workshops were open to people of all ages while the “Bollywood Indian Dance” workshops are designed for the benefit of ethnic minorities. However, apart from American Broadway musicals, she hoped that the department would consider including the United Kingdom musicals and those of other countries in the programme. To her understanding, an Indian Artistic Director was recruited for “Defying Gravity”, she enquired if the department would consider inviting students of the musical theatre programme of the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA) to perform in the programme.

61. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho wished to know how the public could join the “Tao Arts Islands - Community Arts Scheme” (Tao Arts). Noting that the department usually engaged large-scale organisations to participate in the programmes, he hoped that small organisations would be invited to inherit and develop the traditional culture.

62. Ms Heidi CHU made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) To tie in with Tao Arts, TOUCH Centre would provide free venues for organising workshops and establish an artwork network in the area with the assistance of community organisations for artists to get in touch the residents. As for publicity, LCSD would produce posters for distribution to housing estates and organisations in the area by TOUCH Centre. It would also distribute promotional materials to libraries, community centres and DC Members to step up publicity in the community. The entire programme would be conducted in English and students would participate in drama, music and dance training as well as performances. Although the target participants of the programme were the ethnic minorities, local people could also join the activities to promote social integration. There would be two “Singing Musical Hits” workshops. Students would perform in Tung Chung and Discovery Bay upon completion of the courses to encourage interaction between the ethnic minorities and local residents in the area.

- (b) The Artistic Director of “Defying Gravity” was a former lecturer of the musical theatre dance programme in HKAPA and a veteran of the industry who had produced musicals, organised overseas classes in musical theatre training, and assisted LCSD in offering musical trainings in local schools and organising musical performances at the invitation of the Cultural Presentation Section. He would write a musical script for Tao Arts incorporating the elements of Islands District.
- (c) The department invited local and foreign art practitioners to join hands to organise programmes. Interested art groups, including community art groups, were welcome to submit programme proposals for the department’s consideration. The objectives of Tao Arts were to encourage the flourishing of local characteristics and develop artworks including musicals with local characteristics.

63. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho enquired if Lamma Island and Peng Chau were not included as performance locations due to problems relating to venue arrangements. To his understanding, there was an outdoor performance in Cheung Chau and he hoped that similar arrangements could be made for performances in Lamma Island and Peng Chau.

64. Ms Amy YUNG proposed introducing innovative new British musicals to the programme. As the Artistic Director had taken up important posts in HKAPA, she hoped that graduates of the academy would participate in the performance. Since Lamma Island lacked performance venues as mentioned by Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho, she opined that the department should provide indoor performance venues in Cheung Chau and Lamma Island and allocate resources for nurturing talents. In addition to Tung Chung and Discovery Bay, she hoped that the shows could be held in other areas in Islands District.

65. Mr Eric KWOK hoped that photos and videos would be taken of the programme as proof so that DC and the stakeholders would be clear about the proper use of the sum of \$650,000.

66. Mr Ken WONG urged the department to monitor if resource allocation in Islands District was fair as the community programmes were mainly organised in Tung Chung and Cheung Chau at present to ensure that the less populated areas could also take part.

67. Mr CHAN Lin-wai said that LCSD seldom organised activities on Lamma Island which had over 10,000 residents and a diverse population. He hoped that the department could co-organise activities with Lamma community bodies, which he believed could assist in publicity and promotional work.

68. Ms Heidi CHU responded as follows:

- (a) Tao Arts consisted of 10 cultural and arts programmes, including performances on Lamma Island and Peng Chau. At phase four of “Defying Gravity”, performances would be held in elderly centres and schools in Tung Chung and Discovery Bay. The department would study the feasibility of organising performances on Lamma Island and Peng Chau.
- (b) For inviting HKAPA students to perform, the department said that the participants already included a number of HKAPA graduates.
- (c) The department agreed with Mr Eric KWOK that the entire programme would be filmed for record.

69. Mr Eric KWOK requested the department to provide a five-minute highlight video to Members after completion of the programme.

70. Ms Heidi CHU pledged to record the programme for publicity.

71. Ms Amy YUNG proposed recording the musical performances and producing CD for residents of Islands District who could not watch the performances.

72. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho said that, to his understanding, no small organisations had been invited to co-organise programmes with LCSD before. He enquired again if LCSD only invited community organisations of a certain scale and proposed streamlining the programme administrative procedures.

73. Ms Heidi CHU said that LCSD welcomed participation by arts groups of different art forms. Interested bodies, including art groups of small scale, could submit programme proposals to the department. Apart from programmes of Tao Arts, Mid-Autumn Lantern Carnivals, Lunar New Year Lantern Carnivals and Youth Nights would be considered. Without receiving sponsorship, TOUCH Centre provided workshop venues for free, and support would be welcome.

74. The Chairman asked Members to consider endorsing the proposal and funding application.

75. Members voted by a show of hands and two of them were absent during voting. The result was 16 votes in favour, 0 against and abstained. The proposal and funding application were endorsed.

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

V. Question on webcast of District Council meetings
(Paper IDC 25/2020)

76. Ms Amy YUNG briefly presented the question.
77. Mr Ken WONG expressed his views as follows:
- (a) He was dissatisfied that the eight ex-officio members were labelled as non-elected members in the paper, and pointed out that they were returned through Rural Representative Election and had public mandate.
 - (b) He doubted if IDC had to broadcast the meetings live as the other 17 DCs did, and opined that the resources allocated differed between districts, so generalisation should be avoided.
 - (c) Regarding the transparency of DC, he pointed out that proxy voting and appointment of co-opted Members had been abolished, and that it was necessary to keep abreast with the times. It was no cause for complaint if Members considered webcast of meetings necessary after discussion, but discussion should be conducted in a rational manner.
78. Mr CHAN Lin-wai said that he had been an IDC Member for years, and during these years, Ms Amy YUNG heaped criticism on the structure of the Rural Committee (RC), with which he was discontented. He agreed with Mr Ken WONG that the eight ex-officio members had public mandate and believed that they put the well-being of Islands District in the first priority, so the eight ex-officio members should not be misunderstood or criticised.
79. Ms Amy YUNG expressed her views as follows:
- (a) She said that Members might have misunderstood her remarks and clarified that the term “ex-officio member” was used in the webpage of IDC. She suggested changing the wording to “Although eight out of the 18 Members of IDC are not elected members” to make the meaning clearer. She did not mean to question if the ex-officio members had public mandate, but she was aware that people returning from foreign countries could vote in RC Elections.
 - (b) She emphasised that the aim of raising the question was to help DC keep abreast with the times and allow the public to understand the proceedings of an entire meeting through live streaming to enhance the accountability and transparency of DC. She agreed that abolishment of proxy voting and suspension of appointment of co-opted members for two years were great improvements for IDC.
80. Mr Ken WONG agreed with Ms Amy YUNG that it was just a matter of wording. The term “ex-officio” was an official name without any association with

“take for granted”. Those Members were also returned through election. He further explained that under the current election mechanism, the eight ex-officio members present did not necessarily get elected as DC Member. Taking Kaifong Representative Election as an example, the electoral threshold was set higher and stricter than that of DC Election. To be eligible, the candidate was required to be a resident of the respective Market Town for six years and voters needed to have lived there for at least three years. Meanwhile, residents of a constituency were eligible to stand for or vote in DC Election once they moved in.

81. Mr FONG Lung-fei agreed to broadcast IDC meetings live as requested by some residents. He said that although some assistants of Members recorded the meetings from time to time, official webcast of IDC meetings would boost the image of IDC and enable the public to understand the proceedings of meetings.

82. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho opined that it was unnecessary to keep mentioning the differences between elected and ex-officio members. He agreed with Mr CHAN Lin-wai that Members should serve the public concertedly. He hoped that Members would endorse webcast of meetings.

83. Mr Eric KWOK expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He proposed writing to HAB for changing the term “ex-officio member”, such as replacing with “seats returned through rural election” to avoid endless discussion. He believed that all IDC Members would fulfil their responsibilities and actively take part in community affairs.
- (b) He opined that residents of the urban area might not understand the uniqueness of Islands District. For example, ferry was the only mode of transport on islands like Lamma Island, Peng Chau and Cheung Chau not having roads, flyovers or traffic lights. These places did not benefit from the infrastructural development fund, unless resources were invested in ferry operations. Webcast of IDC meetings enabled people living in the urban area to understand the difficulties of residents of outlying islands. He hoped that Members could endorse webcast of IDC meetings so the public could better understand the work performance of Members and development of Islands District.

84. Mr LEE Ka-ho opined that IDC should keep abreast with the times with more transparency so he supported official webcast of meetings. He said that the recent meetings were attended and broadcast live by the media and to his understanding, many people watched the webcast. Noting the expectations of IDC from the public, he considered webcasting a means to be accountable to the voters.

85. Mr HO Siu-kei said that he adopted an open attitude towards webcast of DC meetings.

86. Ms Josephine TSANG said that the proposal for webcast of meetings had been put to vote in IDC and was rejected. She enquired whether re-submitting the item again for voting in less than half a year was in line with the procedures.

87. Ms WONG Chau-ping agreed that ex-officio members were returned under electoral system. She said that they had to pass through a number of stages, including running for the Rural Representative Election, joining the Executive Committee of a RC and standing for the Chairman election regardless of the challenges. She believed that all Members were committed to serving the residents and bringing about improvements to Islands District.

88. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho, in response to Mr Eric KWOK's proposal of writing to HAB to propose changing the term "ex-officio member", opined that the practice of LegCo could be adopted by treating RC as the functional constituencies of DC and promoting openness and transparency of RC Elections. However, a standardised election would be most desirable. He considered it unnecessary to discuss the differences between ex-officio and elected members. Members should make a concerted effort to follow up on the motion.

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

- (a) He believed that the majority of Members agreed to broadcast DC meetings live. He enquired of the Chairman if the proposal of webcast of meetings was endorsed, whether the Secretariat or Members would be responsible for implementation, and whether the committee or working groups would discuss the implementation details at the meetings.
- (b) As for the mode of webcast, he enquired if a Facebook page or YouTube channel would be created by the Secretariat or finance be provided for launching a website for live streaming. He appealed to Members with relevant knowledge to offer assistance in these matters.

90. The Chairman expressed his views as follows:

- (a) The background information on webcast of DC meetings had been discussed at previous meetings. At the meeting on 6 January, the interim arrangement for live-streaming of meetings by the media and concern groups was vetoed. At the meeting on 20 January, when Members requested to conduct discussion again on webcast of meetings, he pointed out that the issue of resource allocation should be addressed.
- (b) The conference room used for IDC meetings was a venue of C&W DC. If webcast was arranged by C&W and other DCs, it was believed that IDC would have less difficulty during implementation.
- (c) The differences between "elected members" and "ex-officio members" discussed just now was a matter of wording. All Members were

committed to promoting the well-being of the public and should take pride in themselves.

- (d) As all Members agreed to broadcast meetings live, he proposed drawing reference from the arrangement of the other 17 DCs. If IDC failed to secure resources for live broadcast at the conference room, utilisation of funding allocated to its committees could be considered.
- (e) In response to the question of Ms Josephine TSANG, he said that where a decision had been made on a motion, no further discussion on the motion shall be proposed within six months. However, Members only indicated their stance on the motion at the last meeting without discussion so the rule was inapplicable. He proposed applying for resources first. If no resources were allocated within a short period of time (two to three months), creation of a Facebook page proposed by Mr WONG Chun-yeung could be considered. Other options such as asking Members' assistants to help with matters related to webcast could be discussed in due course.

91. Mr WONG Chun-yeung proposed that a vote should be taken on the webcast of DC meetings before discussing the implementation details.

92. The Chairman enquired if Members agreed to vote on the proposal of webcast of DC meetings before discussing the implementation details, and whether IDC would continue to oppose webcasting regardless of its implementation in the other 17 DCs.

93. Mr HO Chun-fai considered it necessary to understand the potential problems of webcasting before voting.

94. Mr YUNG Chi-ming said that if webcast of meetings was agreed by the other 17 DCs, IDC should give support as the proceedings of meetings were not considered confidential.

95. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho reminded the Chairman that every vote should be taken by a show of hands, and that his speaking time should not be reduced for such reminder.

96. Mr HO Chun-fai said that he adopted an open attitude towards webcast of meetings and agreed with the views of Mr YUNG Chi-ming. He also emphasised that he wished to know more about the procedural arrangements.

97. Ms Amy YUNG agreed to vote by a show of hands on the proposal of webcast of DC meetings first and then set the basic directions for implementation having regard to resources availability and arrangements of other DCs as suggested by the Chairman.

98. Mr WONG Chun-yeung agreed to vote by a show of hands on the proposal of webcast of meetings before discussing the implementation details as suggested by the Chairman.

99. The Chairman reiterated that the arrangements for webcast, not the motion, was put up for discussion at the meeting on 6 January.

100. The Chairman asked Members to vote by a show of hands on “IDC would not insist on opposing webcast of meetings if it was eventually implemented in the other 17 DCs”.

101. Members voted by a show of hands. The result was 17 votes in favour, 0 against and abstained. The proposal was endorsed.

(Members voted in favour included: the Chairman Mr Randy YU, the Vice Chairman Mr WONG Man-hon, Mr CHOW Yuk-tong, Mr YUNG Chi-ming, Mr CHAN Lin-wai, Mr Ken WONG, Mr HO Chun-fai, Mr HO Siu-kei, Ms WONG Chau-ping, Ms Amy YUNG, Ms Josephine TSANG, Mr Eric KWOK, Mr FONG Lung-fei, Ms LAU Shun-ting, Mr LEE Ka-ho, Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho and Mr WONG Chun-yeung. Mr Sammy TSUI left the meeting temporarily at 11:43 a.m.)

102. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho pointed out that the Chairman said “Someone had not raised his hand” after voting and vote count, which he considered unfair. He said that the Member concerned gave no response for over 15 seconds after voting began and only raised his hand after being reminded by the Chairman. It would be unfair if the Chairman made such remark every time.

103. The Chairman suggested putting the observation made by Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho on record.

104. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho requested the Chairman to apologise for the mistake.

105. Ms Josephine TSANG asked Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho to bear with elder Members. Given the big age gap among the 18 Members, she opined that the elder Members might be relatively slow in response and need more time for consideration.

106. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho emphasised that he had full respect for the elderly. He apologised to Mr CHAN for any misunderstanding caused by his remarks. He was simply referring to the Chairman’s act and considered it inappropriate for him to raise such question at the wrong time which would cause misunderstanding. He reiterated that he did not aim at any specific members.

107. The Chairman acknowledged the question of Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho.

108. Mr CHAN Lin-wai said that the question stated “Although eight out of the 18 Members of IDC were ex-officio members and had no public mandate, they had no reason to do something that would make IDC ignore public opinion”, he questioned if Ms Amy YUNG implied that the eight RC Chairmen would act contrary to public opinion and requested an explanation from her.

109. Ms Amy YUNG asked Mr CHAN Lin-wai not to misinterpret her question. She agreed that Members should stop mentioning about the differences between “ex-officio member” and “elected member” as both were IDC Members. She emphasised that as some Members opposed to webcast of meetings when asked to indicate their stance at the first meeting, the core of the question now was “whether IDC would not be set against the proposal”. She pointed out that she just adopted the term “ex-officio member” used by HAD and had no intention to aim at anyone or cause division and hoped that she would not be misunderstood. She did not demand support from Members but just wanted to know if they would not continue to hold their stance as indicated at the previous meeting.

110. Mr YUNG Chi-ming opined that the words “had no public mandate” might lead to misunderstanding and emphasised that “ex-officio members” were also returned by elections.

111. Ms Amy YUNG said that she had suggested changing the wording “had no public mandate” to “not elected members”, and emphasised that she had no intention to accuse anyone. She also considered the proposal of Mr Eric KWOK of writing to HAB for amending the term “ex-officio member” as understandable.

112. Ms Josephine TSANG said that she voted against the proposal at the previous meeting, and opined that all Members had their own points of view and stance so she had the right to raise objection. She changed her stance from opposing to supporting the proposal as she considered it necessary for IDC to keep abreast of the times. It was neither a self-contradictory nor compromised decision.

113. Ms WONG Chau-ping believed that the Members concerned did not mind being referred to as “ex-officio members” but disliked being treated as “having no public mandate”. As Ms Amy YUNG had explained that she did not label the Members concerned intentionally, she hoped that relevant papers would be handled properly in future.

114. Mr Ken WONG asked Members to stop quibbling over “ex-officio members” and “had no public mandate”, and said that it was meaningless to continue with such discussion as Ms Amy YUNG had explained for her inappropriate choice of words.

115. The Chairman said that Ms Amy YUNG had clearly explained for the wording of the question. As for Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho’s query directed to him, he said that he did not turn off the microphone of the Chairman during vote count, so Members could hear his conversation with the Secretary. He clarified that he just reminded the Secretary to check if all Members had raised their hand since he had clearly heard Mr CHAN Lin-wai say that he adopted an open attitude towards the motion. He apologised for any misunderstanding caused by his conversation with the Secretary, and believed that all Members regarded voting by a show of hands a solemn process.

116. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho thanked the Chairman for his response and apologised for being emotional.

117. The Chairman said that DC operated in a democratic and open manner and he believed that all Members were committed to promoting the well-being of the public.

VI. Question on arrangement for statement making and raising motions at District Council meeting

(Paper IDC 26/2020)

118. Ms Amy YUNG briefly introduced the question.

119. Mr Anthony LI responded as follows:

- (a) The statement mentioned in the question was not relevant to DC meetings.
- (b) As for the motion on “opposing the Occupy Central movement” indicated in the question, he believed that it referred to the motion raised by Mr WONG Siu-keung at IDC meeting on 24 June 2013. The motion mentioned that tens of thousands of Islands District residents travelled to urban area for work or school everyday, and the occupy movement caused traffic congestion and affected residents’ life, so the motion was raised. The motion was approved by IDC Chairman in accordance with Section 6(5) of Islands District Council Standing Orders (Standing Orders).
- (c) One of the responsibilities of the Islands District Office (IsDO) was to support DC to improve district facilities and service and to maintain a better living environment for residents. Since Members expressed opinions on district affairs at DC meetings, the staff of IsDO (including himself) attended the meetings to better understand their opinions and views to facilitate follow-up actions after the meetings. The main duty of the Secretary was to provide clerical and other support at the meeting and the responsibilities of the Secretary were set out in the Standing Orders. Copies of the extracts of the District Councils Ordinance and Standing Orders concerning the responsibilities of District Officers (DOs) and Secretaries had been distributed to Members for perusal.

120. Ms Amy YUNG said that DO gave no explanation for a joint statement made by 18 Chairmen of the last term of DC and passing the motion on “opposing the Occupy Central movement” and the incident in which DOs and Secretariat staff of Tai Po and Central and Western (C&W) DCs of the current term walked out mid-way at the meetings. She raised this question as IsDO handled matters entirely differently, and criticised it for “moving the goalposts” in response. While IsDO provided documents detailing the responsibilities of DOs and Secretaries at the meeting today, she enquired whether DOs and the Secretariats would not scrutinise issues and motions raised by

Members or take part in the boycott of any motions or issues by walking out of meetings from now on.

121. Mr Anthony LI responded as follows:

- (a) The main duty of IsDO was to support DC in taking forward the work for improvement of district facilities and community development. The responsibilities of the Secretary and DO were set out in the Standing Orders.
- (b) As for the incidents occurred in other DCs, the Government had issued press release stating the practical considerations made on the occasions and he would not repeat the content.
- (c) The questions and motions discussed by IDC were reviewed by the chairman according to the Standing Orders and there were no such things as DO or Secretariat staff intervening in respect of the motions, questions and agenda of IDC.
- (d) As far as he knew, the government officers walked out of the meetings mainly because they did not agree with the issues concerned or considered it inappropriate to join the discussion. He had to know what issues or matters were to be discussed before deciding whether to withdraw from the meeting. He would not participate in the discussion of issues if it was inappropriate for him to do so.

122. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho said that while DO just indicated that he would withdraw from the meeting if it was not suitable for him to participate in the discussion, it was the duty of IsDO to handle every issue raised and whether an issue was suitable to be discussed at the meeting was determined by the chairman but not DO. To his understanding, what DO meant was that the chairman was incapable of making the decisions and DO then made the decisions himself and decided to withdraw from the meeting. However, he believed that the chairman should be capable of handling the issues. He requested IsDO to give examples of issues that were approved by the chairman for discussion at the meeting but not considered likewise by DO.

123. Mr WONG Chun-yeung felt perplexed by DO's response. The media reported that the DOs walked out of the meetings out of political considerations, and he enquired whether IsDO reckoned that DO (C&W) walked out of the meeting because it was inappropriate for her to join the discussion rather than out of political considerations. To allay public dissatisfaction with the walk out, he asked IsDO to cite the legislation which allowed them to walk out of the meeting. He understood that no similar incident had occurred in IDC and hoped that IsDO would give a reply.

124. Ms Amy YUNG said that DO indicated that he would not participate in the discussion if it was inappropriate to do so, but the DOs of C&W and Tai Po led their staff to leave the meeting because they disagreed on the matters to be discussed

although they were not asked to join the discussion. If the main duty of the district office staff and Secretariats was to provide assistance at DC meetings, she asked why they scrutinised the agenda items. She stressed that her remarks aimed at DO (C&W) and DO (Tai Po) who led the staff to leave the meetings bringing the meetings to a standstill. She was aware that no similar incident had occurred in IDC but was afraid that DO would leave the meeting with the staff in the future although he needed not join the discussion. She enquired whether IsDO could pledge that when issues running contrary to the Government's stance were brought up for discussion, DO would not lead the staff to walk out bringing the meeting to a standstill.

125. Mr Anthony LI reiterated that one of the responsibilities of IsDO was to give support to IDC to improve the living environment and district facilities for local residents. He believed that as long as IDC discharged duties according to the District Councils Ordinance, the staff of IsDO would not walk out or fail to attend the meeting without reason. Regarding the incidents of C&W and Tai Po DCs, he reiterated that the Government had issued press release indicating its views and he did not intend to repeat the content. Whether it was necessary to walk out or withdraw from the meeting would depend on the actual situation and no generalisations could be made.

126. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho said that what DO said was incompatible with the action of DO (C&W). He understood that DOs were the persons in charge of respective district offices and representatives of the Government at district level, responsible for direct supervision of district administrative plans as well as co-ordination of implementation of district programmes. Pointing out that the joint statement made by 18 DC Chairmen of the last term was not associated with the above responsibilities, he questioned why the DOs did not withdraw from the meeting on the ground that the joint statement should not be put under discussion as it was not relevant to the functions of DCs.

127. Mr Anthony LI reiterated that the joint statement mentioned in the question was not relevant to the meetings of DC.

128. Ms Amy YUNG asked DO to define livelihood issues and believed that it was difficult to sever ties between livelihood and politics. She pointed out that the ways of handling by DC of the last term and current term were completely different and wondered if IDC staff would walk out on meetings paralysing the meetings in the future because of the contents of questions or motions. She did not want to see similar incidents happen in IDC. She stressed that livelihood matters were related to the wellbeing of the public and it was difficult to tell what were livelihood and political issues.

129. Mr WONG Chun-yeung said that apart from enabling Members to get more information about the incidents, he raised the enquiry just now to avoid public misunderstanding about the actions of DOs since the media might exaggerate the incidents of the walk out and suggest that political considerations played a part in the incidents. He noted that DO did not reply to his enquiry and give a reasonable account to members of the public. He requested IsDO to explain why the motions concerning

“opposing the Occupy Central movement” and Fugitive Offenders Ordinance in the last term of DC were regarded as relating to livelihood issues.

130. Mr Anthony LI believed that the motion on “opposing the Occupy Central movement” mentioned in the question referred to the one raised by Mr WONG Siu-keung at IDC meeting on 24 June 2013, which stated that with tens of thousands of Islands District residents commuting to urban area for work or school every day and tourism a major industry of Islands District, the “Occupy Central” movement affected the daily life of Islands District residents significantly.

131. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho said that according to the minutes of IDC meeting on 24 June 2013, the agenda item was titled “Motion on upholding the core value of rule of law of Hong Kong”, the wording of which was not related to livelihood issues at all. The motion stated that “IDC strongly condemned acts that caused disruption of social order and damaged the core value of rule of law, and opposed the ‘Occupy Central’ movement, and reckoned that the proponents and organisers of the movement attempted to achieve certain political demands by encouraging members of the public to break the law, which damaged the image of Hong Kong, entailed immense losses in economic interest of Hong Kong and plunged Hong Kong people into great hardship” and also “requested the Police to diligently discharge their duties, stringently enforce the law, maintain social stability and safeguard the legitimate interests of members of the public and Islands District residents”. He enquired which part of the motion was related to livelihood issues.

132. Mr WONG Chun-yeung considered the response of DO ambiguous. He hoped that IsDO would provide a clear definition and let Members know under what circumstances would DO lead the staff to walk out on a meeting or forbid IDC to discuss an issue so as to allay the concern of Members.

133. Mr Anthony LI said that although the impact on the residents was not specifically mentioned in the title of the motion on opposing the Occupy Central movement, the motion was raised from the perspective of impacts caused to the residents. He referred to “livelihood issues” as issues affecting the daily life of residents, which were actually what the motion was concerned about. He reiterated that motions and questions raised at DC meetings were approved by the chairman and he did not see the need for IsDO withdrawing from the meeting when the motion was raised in 2013. He stressed that whether to withdraw from a meeting depended on the actual situation and the matters under discussion and no generalisations could be made.

134. Ms Amy YUNG said that DO failed to answer her question. As Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho had pointed out, the motion on opposing the Occupy Central movement did not involve livelihood matters but DO took it as concerning traffic impacts. She was worried that the motions raised by Members in the future would be interpreted by DO in other ways and Members might not be clear whether an issue raised overstepped the line, resulting in officials walking out of the meeting. She asked IsDO to provide clear guidelines on political and livelihood issues.

135. Mr LEE Ka-ho found the response of DO disappointing. While DO stated that the motion on opposing the Occupy Central movement was related to livelihood matters, he reckoned that no political issue was unrelated to livelihood matters. For example, the recent anti-epidemic work concerned people's livelihood whereas the discussion on whether the Chief Executive should close the boundary control points related to a political issue. If DO was discontented with the discussion on whether the Chief Executive should close the boundary control points, would he/she lead the staff to walk out? He said that this issue was also related to people's livelihood and that the line between livelihood and political issues was blurred. He was dissatisfied that DO refused to give response saying that he could not explain on behalf of DO (C&W) and DO (Tai Po) why they walked out of the meetings. Given that DO represented IsDO and should have put in place clear work guidelines, he should not act arbitrarily and make Members feel confused. He hoped that DO would provide clear explanations.

136. The Chairman requested DO to briefly explain the situation in which the motion on opposing the Occupy Central movement was raised years ago. As he understood, the traffic matter was brought up by Members at that time.

137. Mr Anthony LI gave a consolidated response as follows:

(a) He read out the "Motion on upholding the core value of rule of law of Hong Kong" as follows: Members of the public were deeply dissatisfied with and concerned about the acts of the organisers and proponents of the recent "Occupy Central" movement and requested DC members to reflect their views. In my opinion, with tens of thousands of Islands District residents commuting to Central for work or school every day and tourism as the most important means of livelihood, traffic congestion at Central and decreasing number of tourists would significantly jeopardise our livelihood and affect the work and study of the residents. As such, I move that:

1. IDC strongly condemned acts that caused disruption of social order and damaged the core value of rule of law of Hong Kong, and opposed the "Occupy Central" movement. This Council reckoned that the proponents and organisers of the movement attempted to achieve certain political demands by encouraging members of the public to break the law, which damaged the image of Hong Kong, entailed immense losses in economic interest of Hong Kong and plunged Hong Kong people into great hardship.
2. This Council requested the Police to diligently discharge their duties, stringently enforce the law, maintain social stability and safeguard the legitimate interests of members of the public and Islands District residents. The motion was seconded by Mr CHAN Lin-wai.

- (b) One of the responsibilities of IsDO was to support IDC to take forward district work and improve district facilities and the living environment for residents. On this premise, he did not see the need for IsDO or relevant government departments to withdraw from or not attend meetings. He indicated that he had been working with IsDO for a long time and in close cooperation with Members and without any problems. He told Members not to worry about IsDO staff withdrawing from or not attending meetings.

VII. Question on District Council Funds
(Paper IDC 28/2020)

138. The Chairman said that the Home Affairs Department (HAD) had provided a written reply for Members' perusal.

139. Mr LEE Ka-ho briefly introduced the question.

140. The Chairman enquired whether Members had any comment.

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

- (a) He enquired of the department how the funding arrangement was made in recent years and whether there was discussion with other government departments.
- (b) He noticed that there had been no increase in the fund for the Community Involvement Projects (CIPs) of Islands District in recent years. While the department indicated in its written reply that population size was one of the factors to be considered in fund allocation, he pointed out that the population of Islands District had been increasing in recent years and questioned why the fund allocated to Islands District had not increased.
- (c) Regarding the regulation stipulating that DCs could not use more than 15% of their respective district allocation to engage dedicated staff, he enquired whether the department had conducted a review. The department's written reply stated that "since the fourth term of DC (2012-2016), the maximum allocation for engagement of dedicated staff had increased from 10% to 15% of the respective district allocation", and he enquired whether it referred to the years from 2011 to 2015. He remarked that even if it referred to the fourth term of DC, the increase from 10% to 15% was made in the term before last and enquired whether discussion on increase of allocation had been conducted in recent years. He learned at the first DC meeting that the expenditure on engaging dedicated staff of Islands District already exceeded 15% of the fund allocation. Since new committees might be set up in this term, coupling with the work related to open voting and vote count at the meetings, he

was afraid that the Secretariat might have its hands full and it might then be necessary to increase fund allocation and manpower to handle the work.

- (d) In response to his proposal of setting up an independent secretariat to support DC, paragraph 5 of the department's written reply stated that a detailed study would be required, and he hoped that the department would provide the details of the study.

142. The Chairman summed up the views of Mr LEE Ka-ho as follows:

- (a) Member would like to know how the department negotiated with other departments involved, if any, to determine the allocation of DC funds and how the mechanism operated.
- (b) Noting that the population of Islands District was on the increase but the fund allocated to the department remained unchanged in recent years, Member would like to know the reason for not increasing the fund and whether it was because the population growth rate of other districts was similar to that of Islands District.
- (c) Noting that DCs could use not more than 15% of the allocation of the respective district to engage dedicated staff and the percentage had not increased in recent years after the increase from 10% years ago, Member enquired whether the department would consider increasing the fund given the need of the Secretariat to increase manpower.
- (d) Regarding setting up an independent secretariat for giving support to DC, the department indicated in its written reply that "a detailed study would be required". Member enquired whether the study was underway or about the time of its commencement.

143. The Chairman asked the Secretariat to relay the above to HAD in writing and send the department's written reply to Members after receipt so that the latter might raise further enquiries if necessary.

VIII. Question on setting up Security and Constitutional Affairs Committee
(Paper IDC 29/2020)

144. Mr LEE Ka-ho briefly introduced the question.

145. The Chairman said that the proposal was raised by Mr LEE Ka-ho at an earlier meeting and now formally raised at this meeting for discussion. He expressed that he welcomed input of Members. Issues concerning fire protection, law and order, steel gates and false alarm had been raised by Members at the meetings of DC and other

committees and discussed at the meetings of relevant committees. He enquired whether Members agreed to conduct discussions on the proposal of Mr LEE Ka-ho.

146. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho said that the proposal of LEE Ka-ho warranted discussion and was concerned that delays would be caused if the discussion was deferred to a meeting a few months later. To his understanding, questions concerning Security and Constitutional Affairs Committee (SCAC) were also raised at other DCs, and some had already set up the committee. Since Mr LEE Ka-ho had explained the responsibilities of the committee, he enquired whether DO needed to withdraw from the meeting and whether the matter concerning the committee fell within the ambit of DC.

147. Ms Amy YUNG said that as far as she knew, Fire Safety Committees and Fight Crime Committees, etc. in addition to DCs were set up under district offices. Although applying to DCs for fund allocation, such committees were not subordinate committees of DCs which might therefore be informed of matters endorsed at the meetings of these committees unless there were DC members sitting on the committees. She pointed out that unlike committees comprising members appointed by the Government, members of DCs were returned by election and could represent members of the public whereas the Government appointed members might not. Since Mr LEE Ka-ho had already explained clearly the functions of SCAC, she agreed that such committee be set up under IDC. She did not want to see the passing of motions by committees appointed by the Government as they did not have a public mandate and could not reflect public viewpoints but the Government only and was a mere puppet of the Government.

148. Ms Josephine TSANG said that as advised by the Chairman, Members might bring up different issues for discussion at different committees. At present, the Security Bureau (SB) and the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) were playing the overseeing role, whereas DC was unable to carry out the function of overseeing given the constraints of its terms of reference. She proposed that a vote be taken on the setting up of SCAC.

149. The Chairman considered it necessary to study in detail the three functions proposed by Mr LEE Ka-ho. He proposed that a vote be taken on setting up of SCAC.

150. Mr Eric KWOK said that he in principle agreed with setting up SCAC but was concerned about the availability of resources. Given the already strained manpower situation of the Secretariat, he enquired whether it could increase manpower and resources if the committee was set up.

151. The Chairman considered that Mr Eric KWOK had raised a very practical question. He said that he had earlier followed up and explored with the Secretariat and IsDO the feasibility of setting up SCAC and underscored the busy schedule of DC and heavy workload of the Secretariat with staff working long hours. Nevertheless, if Members considered it necessary to set up SCAC, resources should be sought and, if to no avail, recourse might be explored. Since Members held different views on the

setting up of SCAC, he suggested that a vote be taken. If passed, resources would be sought, and if not, issues would be followed up at the meetings of IDC and its existing committees. The proposal of setting up SCAC could be brought up again after half a year later.

152. The Chairman asked Members to vote on the setting up of SCAC by a show of hands.

153. Members voted by a show of hands. There were six voted for, nine against and two abstained. The proposal was vetoed.

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

IX. Question on Mutual Aid Committees of Public Housing Estates
(Paper IDC 30/2020)

154. The Chairman welcomed Mr TONG Ping-tat, Senior Property Service Manager/Hong Kong Island and Islands Region of HD to the meeting to respond to the question. HAD had provided a written reply for Members' perusal.

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

156. Mr MOK Sui-hung briefly presented the written reply.

157. Mr FONG Lung-fei said that many residents reflected to him that they had no idea who held the position of Chairman of Mutual Aid Committee (MAC). He indicated that a few days ago after a falling from height incident happened in Yat Tung Estate, he wanted to contact and discuss with the MAC Chairman the follow-up but failed to do so and did not have the contact details. He knew that the MAC Chairman had a mailbox but was not sure whether it was in use. He questioned that MACs failed to fully exercise their functions as residents would approach DC members direct for assistance. He cited the cases of people being suspected of keeping protected animals with strong odour hovering or even placing food at the window sill to feed rodents. Although residents should have sought help from MACs in the first place, they approached DC members direct when not knowing what to do. He indicated that MAC received a subsidy of \$2,000 from HAD on a quarterly basis and that should have provided a contact telephone number for the residents to make enquiries.

158. Mr Eric KWOK expressed his views as follows:

- (a) To his understanding, Mr FONG Lung-fei had enquired of HAD about the contact details of MAC Chairman and Executive Committee members but HAD refused to provide their details for privacy reasons. He enquired about under which provisions of the regulations made under the privacy ordinance the department refused to give the details.
- (b) He asked IsDO to provide the timetable of setting up MACs of Mun Tung Estate after the epidemic. At present, issues concerning Mun Tung Estate were mostly handled by the management company on a temporary basis, which was unfair to both the residents and the management company. Since the work was taken up by the management company temporarily, many problems such as environmental hygiene failed to be addressed promptly.
- (c) To his understanding, MAC received a quarterly subsidy of \$2,000 from HAD for reimbursement. As mentioned earlier, the chairmen of MACs would not take the initiative to participate in government events such as activities in celebration of the National Day and the annual spring meals organised by district offices, although associated travel expenses could be reimbursed with the \$2,000 subsidy. In response to his proposal of providing travel and entertainment allowance, HAD replied earlier that it would study the proposal but had yet to provide him an update on the progress. He asked IsDO to write to the Secretary for Home Affairs (SHA) Mr LAU Kong-wah requesting for increasing the subsidy for MACs to tie in with commodity prices, and providing subsidy to cover the travel expenses of MACs incurred when participating in activities of the Government, non-profit-making organisations (NPOs) and social welfare institutions.

159. Ms Amy YUNG expressed her views as follows:

- (a) To her understanding, the Model Rules for a MAC in a Public Housing Estate (Model Rules) were made only for reference but not as regulations, and IsDO seemed like a “toothless tiger”. When members of the public enquired of a MAC about information such as its election date and person in charge, nothing was revealed for privacy reasons. She considered such practice lacked transparency and rendered residents unable to seek assistance from the MAC or make complaints.
- (b) She proposed that IsDO might consider not granting the quarterly subsidy of \$2,000 to a MAC if it was found not exercising its functions.
- (c) She stated that MAC was set up to address livelihood problems, mainly responsible for managing estate matters and providing support to the residents. It should not carry out political propaganda, or IsDO should reprimand it and suspend its operation, and set up a new MAC that preserved neutrality by election. She criticised IsDO for the passive

role adopted and the Model Rules for failing to implementing checks and balances on MACs. She urged IsDO to consider other options such as enactment of legislation, withholding of the subsidy to MAC for misdemeanor and even suspending its operation.

160. Mr LEE Ka-ho said that HAD's written reply stated that "district offices would arrange staff to attend floor meeting and general meeting of floor representatives to assist a MAC to conduct election according to relevant provisions of the Model Rules" and "when residents enquired about the election date of respective MAC, district offices would suggest they enquire directly of the MAC concerned; where necessary, district offices were willing to assist the residents in contacting the MACs". However, according to Mr FONG Lung-fei, some residents enquired of HAD about MAC matters but no reply was given. As he understood, district offices undertook the arbitration role but had no practical effect and no penalty was imposed on MACs which were supervised by district offices. He enquired whether district offices only assisted MACs in conducting the election triennially and monitored vote counting and said no to additional responsibilities. He asked IsDO to explain clearly its role in the operation of MACs.

161. Mr FONG Lung-fei said it was learnt that there had been people with unionist political party background who intended to stand for a MAC election and paid visits to floor representatives for canvassing after getting the list of floor representatives. He enquired whether the list of floor representatives was kept by district office or HD and why the name list was leaked.

162. Mr MOK Sui-hung gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) Regarding dissemination of information, IsDO did not require MACs to disclose details of, say, the chairmen though it was suggested that MACs make public the relevant information for more transparency.
- (b) The election date was decided by the Executive Committee of MAC which would then inform IsDO. It was suggested that when the election date was fixed, the Executive Committee should display relevant information as soon as possible. It was required that a notice should be issued at least seven days before the meeting to let the residents obtain the relevant information soonest for carrying out electioneering activities.
- (c) All members of the MAC Executive Committee served on a voluntary basis and the decision of whether to disclose their contact details was a personal one. However, if a reimbursement claim for fixed line telephone service fee from the quarterly subsidy was made, IsDO suggested that the telephone number concerned be displayed on the notice board to provide information for residents.

- (d) Regarding the timetable of setting up MACs of Mun Tung Estate, IsDO would conduct questionnaire survey in early March; and if consent was given by more than 20% of the flat representatives of the block for the setting up of a MAC, it would proceed with the related work and fix the election date. A concrete timetable was not available for the time being.
- (e) The election date, as mentioned earlier, had to be announced seven days in advance. IsDO encouraged MACs to display the notice of election timetable soonest to inform the residents.
- (f) The subsidy of \$2,000 was paid to MAC on a quarterly basis for reimbursement of administration expenses such as telephone and photocopying charges.
- (g) Regarding political stance, MACs were voluntary bodies formed by the residents with a view to enhancing the spirit of mutual assistance in the neighbourhood and promoting a sense of responsibility and IsDO advised MACs against holding any political stance. In case a misdemeanor was found, IsDO would write to the MAC concerned requesting it to strive to promote neighbourliness as recommended by the Model Rules.
- (h) Members of a MAC were elected by the residents of the block who might approach the respective MAC for enquiries, or IsDO if they could not contact MAC. IsDO would consult MAC for advice or provide the information after verifying the identity of the residents.

163. Mr WONG Chun-yeung enquired of IsDO if the chairman and vice-chairman of a MAC held the same stance on the “anti-extradition to China”, such as opposing amendments to the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance, and put up political propaganda materials and posters outside the MAC to express their stance on the issue with the consent of other MAC members, whether the MAC was allowed to display political propaganda materials in such circumstances.

164. Mr Eric KWOK asked IsDO to convey the request to SHA for adjusting upwards the quarterly subsidy of \$2,000 allocated to MAC to keep up with inflation. As he understood, chairmen of MACs were reluctant to participate in activities of the Government or NPOs mainly due to the lack of travel allowance. Although a MAC might currently applied for a subsidy of up to \$2,000 on a reimbursement basis, the amount was insufficient. He believed that if travel allowance was provided for participating in activities of the Government, NPOs and social welfare institutions, MAC members would be motivated to participate.

165. Mr MOK Sui-hung gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) Regarding political propaganda, prior to commencement of work or decision making, an Executive Committee meeting had to be convened for endorsement by members. As for the display of propaganda

materials on notice boards, while it might have been passed at MAC meeting, the notice boards concerned were managed by HD and he would ask HD to provide supplementary information later.

- (b) The quarterly subsidy for MACs was reviewed every few years. IsDO would write to HAD to convey Members' views. Regarding travel expenses incurred for attending activities, reimbursement claims had been successfully made by MACs and the applications could be made in the same way in the future.

166. Mr TONG Ping-tat said that the notice boards of MACs were managed by IsDO. HD provided the notice boards but would not review the notices posted thereon. He stressed that if any notices suspected of involving political elements were displayed, the department would inform IsDO to contact the MAC for appropriate follow-up.

167. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho said that neither IsDO nor HD responded to the question claiming that the matter was beyond their ambit. He queried that the departments shifted all the responsibility onto MACs and asked them to give explanation.

168. Mr WONG Chun-yeung said he would like to raise an impromptu motion requesting to increase the subsidy for MACs. It was reflected by chairmen and vice-chairmen of MACs that they dug into their own pockets over the years to pay for the operation expenses of MACs. With only several thousand dollars allocated each quarter, a MAC needed to provide services such as child care and free haircut for the elderly in summer, coupling with the daily expenses including air-conditioning and overheads costs, it was always unable to make ends meet. He stressed that the impromptu motion was raised mainly to request HAD to increase the fund for MACs and thereby alleviate the burden of MAC members. As far as he knew, since the subsidy and fund provided by the department to MACs remained unchanged for years, the chairmen and vice-chairmen of MACs always organised activities at their own expense or liaised with DC and LegCo members and looked for various means to apply for subsidies. He believed that if sufficient support was given by HAD, MACs would be able to better address the aspects of the livelihood. He hoped that the Chairman would accept his impromptu motion.

169. Mr MOK Sui-hung gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) He stressed that before a MAC commenced work or made a decision, a meeting was convened to seek members' endorsement and a record would be made in the minutes.
- (b) MACs were voluntary organisations which mainly conducted activities for fostering good relations in the neighbourhood. Political activities were not advised.

- (c) Regarding the proposal of increasing the quarterly subsidy for MACs, he learnt that the unused balance of quarterly subsidy could be carried over to the next quarter of the same calendar year but not the next calendar year. For example, the unspent balance in the first quarter could be used in other quarters of the same year. The fund was normally sufficient to cover the expenses and, in case a MAC faced a shortage of fund, IsDO might report to HAD which would decide whether to adjust the amount of subsidy.

170. The Chairman believed that Members had noted that the quarterly subsidy of MACs could be carried forward. He reckoned that at the moment Members might not be clear about the impromptu motion raised by Mr WONG Chun-yeung and proposed that a detailed motion should be prepared basing on IsDO's previous response and brought up at the CACRC meeting on 18 March.

(Mr Sammy TSUI arrived at around 3:33 p.m.)

X. Question on arming police officers with stun guns and net guns
(Paper IDC 31/2020)

171. The Chairman welcomed Mr LAU Cheng-fung, District Commander (Marine Port District) of the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) to the meeting to respond to the question. SB and HKPF had provided a written reply respectively for Members' perusal.

172. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho briefly introduced the question.

173. Mr LAU Cheng-fung said that SB had provided a written reply and he had nothing to supplement.

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

- (a) He indicated that the written reply of SB failed to respond to the question or provide any information about stun guns and net guns and the reasons for introducing them.
- (b) He expressed discontent with the written reply. He remarked that stun guns were highly risky and if used arbitrarily by policemen who grew emotional during the duty, the consequence would be unthinkable. Apart from injuring members of the public, the policemen might also get injured because the masked plain-clothes policemen deployed might not easily be distinguished from other masked persons. A plain-clothes officer was pepper-sprayed and arrested by uniformed anti-riot policemen earlier.

- (c) He considered that the existing Police equipment was sufficient for handling large-scale conflicts in Hong Kong and enquired why the Police had to introduce stun guns and net guns when non-lethal weapons (including tear gases, pepper balls, bean bag rounds and rubber bullets) were in use. He stated that the above weapons should be used subject to relevant rules, for instance, tear gas should not be used indoors and aim at people horizontally, and pepper balls should not be shot at a distance of 1.8 metres or less. He noted from live broadcasts and photographs that the Police did not comply with the rules when enforcing the law. He cited the example of the policemen throwing tear gas canisters at Kwai Fong MTR Station, claiming that it was neither an indoor or outdoor area, but he opined that covered areas were indoor areas. He also indicated that the Police kept shooting members of the public with pepper balls at close range at Tai Koo MTR Station, and enquired why the Police continued to shoot pepper balls towards members of the public who were already unable to put up any resistance. He pointed out that the above examples revealed unreasonable use of force and even the use of violence by the Police. Since the Police indicated that using a baton was the minimum level of force and policemen could not beat members of the public on the head with a baton when making arrests, he enquired why many arrested persons sustained head injuries. He reckoned that in view of the emotional state of policemen in law enforcement, excessive police power would end up with more members of the public getting injured.
- (d) He indicated that despite a British expert quitting from the Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) earlier, the Police did not conduct any review and even proposed to introduce stun guns and net guns.

175. Mr Sammy TSUI expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He said that the written reply only mentioned the general rules without giving the reasons for introduction of stun guns and net guns for the Police. He pointed out that in the social movements in the last half year the Police started using weapons of mass destruction including pepper spray, bean bag rounds and rubber bullets, causing injuries to many protesters or confronters. Although there were also policemen getting injured, but their injuries were not as serious as those of protesters. He questioned why the Police still considered their equipment insufficient and lambasted the introduction of stun guns and net guns which might cause injuries to more people.
- (b) He stated that many members of the public criticised the Police for using weapons of mass destruction (e.g. bean bag rounds, pepper spray and batons, etc.) against protesters and even planning for upgrading the equipment but not in the arrest of persons suspected of having committed robbery or murder. He enquired whether the Police wanted the social

divisions in Hong Kong and the antagonism between members of the public and the Police and the Government to go on. Since members of the public learned from television broadcasts that many protesters were beaten with batons by the policemen even when they were subdued and pinned to the ground, he opined that the Police should let people know why it was necessary to introduce weapons of mass destruction.

- (c) He said that members of the public were discontented with the Police and suspected they were abusing their power and using excessive violence to suppress protesters. He was worried that equipment upgrade would result in deaths. Given that no justifiable reasons were given, he opposed the introduction of stun guns and net guns.

176. Mr HO Siu-kei said that regarding the social events occurred in the past half year, members of the public might determine from live news reports whether there was police brutality. He remarked that the Police would not use violence unless members of the public did. As for whether there was police brutality, he said it was for the court to decide. Regarding the introduction of stun guns by the Police for crowd control or handling violent incidents, he believed there would be a number of hurdles that the Police had to go through and DC members needed to understand the degree of harm from stun guns. Given that the weapons concerned had never been used in Hong Kong, he considered it necessary to obtain further information about the Police proposal.

177. Ms Amy YUNG said that from the live coverage of social events, people saw with their own eyes the horrible police brutality. She had never thought that the policemen who maintained law and order would act as a political instrument to suppress members of the public. She criticised the policemen for letting their emotions get in the way, making a journalist go blind after pepper-spraying her at close range. According to the 2020-21 Budget, the policemen received considerable amount of overtime pay and more earnings while throwing tear gas canisters and arresting and beating protesters. She was worried that deaths and casualties would be resulted after enhancing the heavy equipment and opposed introducing such powerful weapons. Noting that 60% of the respondents gave zero mark to the Police in an opinion poll, she reckoned that politicians should have political acumen and enhancement of police equipment would cause a public backlash. She was concerned that if this went on, Hong Kong people would be forced to live in misery and more chaos loomed ahead, whereas the issues that really needed to be addressed (e.g. epidemic) would remain unsolved. She said the Government had lost its credibility and the single-digit score (nine marks) of the Chief Executive in a poll could best reflect the situation of Hong Kong's society today. She remarked that enhancement of police equipment in the face of fiscal deficits would only arouse stronger public antipathy.

178. Ms Josephine TSANG enquired of the Police whether stun guns and net guns were set to be introduced, and whether explanation would be given to members of the public about the use of stun guns and net guns. She pointed out that stun guns and nets guns were in use in many countries (e.g. the United States, Canada, the United

Kingdom, France, Germany, Australia, New Zealand and Singapore) and relevant information on the Internet suggested that the possibility of stun guns or net guns causing serious injury or death was lower than one thirteen millionth. She believed that the weapons concerned could help the Police subdue more violent rioters to ensure personal safety. She hoped that Members analysed the events in a fair manner and that the people at scene knew best the ins and outs despite the media reported that members of the public were assaulted by policemen. She believed that justice was at the heart of people and that not only members of the public but also policemen were injured. She hoped that the Police would explain to members of the public the degree of harm that could be caused by stun guns and net guns.

179. Mr LAU Cheng-fung gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) The written reply of SB was tabled for Members' perusal and he had nothing to supplement.
- (b) Regarding the functions of stun guns and net guns, he could not respond on the spot as relevant research information was not available at the moment.
- (c) Regarding the violent incidents happened time and again in the past half year, he pointed out that the Police always insisted that they would enforce the law when someone broke the law. He said that any discontent with the Police's enforcement action would be handled under the existing mechanism and members of the public might make a report if there was evidence of bias in law enforcement.

180. Mr Sammy TSUI pointed out that the Commissioner of Police stated that it was imperative to introduce stun guns and net guns otherwise the policemen would not have sufficient equipment to deal with protesters. Pointing out that the police representative did not have a clear understanding of the weapons concerned, he questioned whether the use of the weapons was suitable or whether the powerful weapons were used for helping the Government deal with objections. He disagreed with Mr LAU Cheng-fung that members of the public might report cases of bias in law enforcement through the police mechanism because many members of the public considered IPCC ineffective in handling complaints concerning social events. He cited the example of the "21 July" incident in Yuen Long, saying that on that day many people saw large numbers of white-clad men enter Yuen Long MTR Station attacking ordinary citizens, and the Police had no evidence to suggest that all those citizens were rioters. Since the citizens were not rioters, he questioned why the Police did not arrest and prosecute the culprits who attacked them, hence leading to questions on the police mechanism. He reckoned that the Police should uphold the rule of law and safeguard people's life and property to earn the respect of the public. He enquired whether the Police had exercised self-reflection. He said that the Police always called the protesters rioters but only arrested a small number of real rioters while over 7 000 people were arrested so far with only a few hundred people prosecuted.

181. Ms Amy YUNG considered the IPCC system ineffective and enquired whether investigation into misuse of power by policemen could be conducted under the complaint handling mechanism of the Police. Members of the public requested the setting up of an independent commission of inquiry following eight months of fruitless investigation by the commission of inquiry of the Police. She questioned if there was sufficient law enforcement transparency, why no report was provided by the commission of inquiry to date. She hoped that the policemen would restrain themselves while performing their duties, otherwise they would get disrespected, by citizens and even the elderly people. She pointed out that people saw on television the violence committed by police which should not have happened in a civilised society. She opined that the leaders had an unshirkable responsibility to solve the problem and the opinion polls were a strong indicator of that. She opposed boosting police strength and increasing public spending on equipment and police overtime pay.

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

- (a) He questioned whether IPCC was a suitable avenue for handling complaints independently and impartially. He pointed out that during 2011 and 2018, IPCC received a total of over 2 000 complaints against the Police while only two were substantiated after review. He was doubtful of the effectiveness of the complaint handling mechanism.
- (b) The written reply of SB stated that IPCC was established under the Independent Police Complaints Council Ordinance (Cap 604, Laws of Hong Kong), which operated independently and discharged its statutory functions including observing, monitoring and reviewing the handling arrangements and investigation of reportable complaints by the Complaints Against Police Office. However, he opined that IPCC did not have the power to direct an investigation to be made into certain events and could only conduct a review as necessary after investigation by the Police. He questioned whether complaints could be handled effectively under this mechanism and agreed to Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho's proposal of setting up an independent commission of inquiry into the Police (ICI) to investigate cases in relation to performance of police duties. He pointed out that the operations of all organisations in Hong Kong were subject to monitoring, for example, DC members were monitored by the electors and the Government and LegCo put in place a monitoring mechanism, and questioned why the Police should be independent from all organisations in Hong Kong and not be subject to monitoring.
- (c) He reckoned that stun guns and net guns which could cause mass destruction should not be introduced without monitoring or else members of the public would not know in what way they were put into use.

183. Mr WONG Chun-yeung disagreed with the police move to introduce stun guns and net guns. He opined that the Police should first deal with the fundamental

issues of law and order instead of wasting tax revenue in stun guns and net guns. He had reported to police officers of Tung Chung district the operation of one-woman brothels in Yat Tung Estate units, gambling establishments in public housing units, and illegal gambling and affrays in the estate, but no any follow-up action was taken. He was disappointed. He enquired how the Police distinguished whether a person was a target or a policeman if that person did not carry a warrant card, and how the cases of policemen accidentally using weapons against fellow policemen were handled. He questioned that if the above fundamental issues of law and order and livelihood could not be tackled, how the Police could convince the public that the newly introduced stun guns and net guns would be put to proper use.

184. Mr YUNG Chi-ming remarked that the duties of policemen included maintaining law and order, and protecting members of the public, community facilities and public safety. In the social movements over the past half year, he saw many policemen and members of the public being chased and attacked by black-clad protesters, and the policemen though attacked dared not open fire even with a pistol in their hands. He opined that the Police demonstrated a high degree of restraint in the social movements. He understood that policemen did not fire arbitrarily but only drew their pistols towards the protesters for deterrent effects when they were almost beaten to death. He appreciated the Police approach. He remarked that every coin had two sides and expressed outrage at some journalists who filmed only the policemen assaulting members of the public but not protesters attacking the police. He hoped that members of the public would see the whole truth as the protesters were seen pouring gasoline on a person holding different opinions to set him on fire. He said that his residence was splashed with red paint twice for no reason, which made him feel puzzled as he had never offended anyone. He criticised the protesters for disregard for consequences and breach of public peace. He supported the Police for their efforts in maintaining law and order and praised police performance which received international acclaim as one of the best in the world.

185. Mr WONG Chun-yeung said that the Police showed its sincerity by arranging four representatives to attend this meeting. He opined that discussion should not be restricted to opposition to the proposed legislative amendments in June last year and the standard of efficiency of policemen in discharging their duties. It was reported that in 2018 the number of policemen arrested increased by 55% and the Commissioner of Police cited greed, sexual desire and peer influence as reasons. Regarding the introduction of stun guns and net guns by the Police, he considered it highly unrealistic and too aggressive. He remarked that before the opposition raised to the proposed legislative amendments, the Police effectiveness in dealing with livelihood and fundamental law and order issues was already declining. Noting that the attributes of police officers left much to be desired, he questioned how the Police could make the public accept the idea of introducing stun guns and net guns. He disagreed with Mr YUNG that some Members' speeches targeted at politics without paying attention to people's livelihood and the request he made for re-provisioning of Urban Council indicated his concerns about livelihood issues.

186. Mr Eric KWOK reckoned that the blunders of senior government officials had brought Hong Kong to this predicament and members of the public (including police officers and their families) were being made to bear the consequences. Since the movements of opposition to the proposed legislative amendments took place in June last year, he questioned why the Chief Executive did not suspend the amendments at once and resolve by political means political issues when the situation was deteriorating, but responded by calling out the Police to suppress social movements, thereby ending up in the present situation. He criticised the senior government officials were cowards, weak and did not admit mistakes. He said that the Government should engage in self-reflection and, if mistakes were detected, set up an ICI with persons with reputation and credibility (e.g. lawyer LI Kwok-lung, Alfred Ronald) appointed for investigation. If any police officer was found committing misconduct in the performance of duties, an investigation should be conducted in an impartial manner. He indicated that it took about 30 to 40 years for the Police to eliminate corruption and build a good reputation, which was however ruined in half a year. He urged the police senior officials to have further discussion on the proposal and should not put the cart before the horse.

187. Ms Amy YUNG said that as Members held different views on the acts of police officers, it would be best to set up an ICI. She believed that the majority of the public would agree and police officers needed not worry about being investigated if they performed duties in compliance with the regulations. She opined that those opposing the setting up of an ICI might have committed wrongdoing not yet been exposed and were worried that it would come to light after investigation. She concurred with Mr WONG Chun-yeung and Mr Eric KWOK that an ICI should be set up with persons with credibility appointed to undertake the investigation to get the truth.

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

- (a) There were news reports that masked policemen in plain-clothes were pepper-sprayed by anti-riot policemen. He enquired how the Police distinguished the former at scene and under which section, e.g. Criminal Investigation Department (CID) they belonged to or were working as undercover officers.
- (b) While Mr YUNG Chi-ming said that police officers had never fired at protesters, it was learnt that they had done so twice or thrice. He requested the details of police officers opening fire during the social movements in the past half year to provide Members with a better picture of the situation.
- (c) Regarding the residence of Mr YUNG Chi-ming being splashed with red paint, he considered it serious and hoped that the Police could step up investigation for early completion of the case.
- (d) He believed that the stun guns and net guns would very likely be used at the scene of demonstration after being brought into use. He learnt that

police officers of the United States did not use stun guns at the scene of demonstration because if a protester was pepper-sprayed and then hit with a stun gun, flames would ignite. While Ms Josephine TSANG mentioned that the death rate for persons hit with stun guns was very low, it was because from 2000 to date there were only 1 000 cases of deployment of stun gun in the United States, resulting in 153 deaths, accounting for about 15% of the total. Moreover, he was afraid that police officers might mistake passers-by for protesters and, if emotionally unstable, hit unarmed arrested persons with stun guns. He pointed out that protesters were ordinary citizens and did not know why some Members called them “rioters”.

189. The Chairman asked police representative to respond to the case of damage to Mr YUNG Chi-ming’s residence and the arrangement in respect of plain-clothes policemen. He thanked the Police for the technical information about stun guns and net guns and enquired whether further information could be provided for Members’ perusal after the meeting.

190. Mr LAU Cheng-fung gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) Regarding the query of Mr Sammy TSUI on Police’s unfamiliarity with the relevant weapons, he clarified that relevant information was not available for the time being. As stated in the written reply of SB, the Police would continue to explore equipment that could be used in different situations. As for whether certain equipment would be issued in a particular period or situation and whether it would draw on relevant experience of counterparts overseas, he said that no response could be given as related information was not available and the matters concerned were not under his ambit.
- (b) Regarding the damage to the residence of Mr YUNG Chi-ming, the Police had arrested a person involved but it was inappropriate to disclose the details there and then.
- (c) Regarding how the Police identified masked policemen in plain-clothes, he was not sure which plain-clothes policemen Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho referred to whilst on duty. He pointed out that police districts or units made their own deployment for operations, for example, enforcement action was taken by plain-clothes policemen against gambling as mentioned by Mr WONG Chun-yeung. No generalisation could be made.

191. The Chairman said that since the police representative mentioned that appropriate equipment would be considered for use from time to time, he enquired whether stun guns and net guns were included or whether the issue was not yet decided. He reckoned that the Police should provide more information for Members to decide whether to oppose the use of the weapons.

192. Mr LAU Cheng-fung said that the Police was still exploring the feasibility of introducing stun guns and net guns and the issue was not yet decided.

193. Mr WONG Chun-yeung pointed out that since the movements of opposition to the proposed legislative amendments took place in June last year, the Police despatched anti-riot policemen to stand guard at housing estates, footpaths and exits of MTR stations; but when being enquired about issues concerning livelihood and law and order such as gambling, it always prevaricated and only despatched a small number of policemen to handle the matters. He requested the Police to explain why the efficiency of handling people's livelihood, law and order and protests differed greatly.

194. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho enquired again whether the Police could provide the details of police shootings during the social movements over the past half years, how the Police identified masked policemen in plain-clothes at scene and whether the policemen concerned were CID officers or undercover officers. The question was raised because there were new reports that plain-clothes policemen were pepper-sprayed by anti-riot policemen.

195. Mr FONG Lung-fei said that while the police representative mentioned that police officers discharged duties following the principle of "enforcing the law when someone broke the law", four young people aged about 18 encountered a protest after dinner in Tung Chung and were arrested by the Police on Christmas night last year without reason, and could not be contacted until around 10:00 a.m. the following day. He enquired whether the Police enforced the law because they thought that the young people broke the law. Another member of the public had similar experience in Causeway Bay after getting off work. The persons involved in these two cases were released unconditionally. He asked for the reason.

196. The Chairman said that regarding the enquiry by Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho about police shooting, there were related television broadcasts indicating the date of shooting, reason and number of shots. He pointed out that some problems mentioned by Members had not happened in Islands District, so he understood that the police representative could not give a response on the spot. He proposed that if the police representative could not provide relevant information and explain the deployment of plain-clothes policemen at the scene of demonstration, a written reply might be provided after the meeting, which would avoid wasting the speaking time of Members and ensure fairness to both parties. Members might request follow-ups if they considered the information insufficient upon receiving the written reply.

197. Mr LAU Cheng-fung gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) Although serving in different police districts, he and Ms TAM Nga-ching would do their best to respond to questions concerning the law and order of Islands District at IDC meetings.

- (b) Regarding the use of stun guns, SB had provided a written reply and he had nothing to supplement.
- (c) Regarding details of police shooting such as the number of shots as well as time and location of shooting, he considered that clearer information could be provided in a written reply.

198. The Chairman asked the Police to respond to Mr WONG Chun-yeung's enquiries about livelihood and law and order issues being left unsolved and its incompetence in handling the matters.

199. Mr WONG Chun-yeung said that according to his observation, the Police had not proactively dealt with law and order issues and criticised that it did not respond or proceed to deal with the issues until Members wrote to urge them to do so. He requested the Police again to respond to the above at the meeting.

200. Ms TAM Nga-ching said that since June last year, a lot of police manpower had been deployed to handle riots, which might to a certain extent have affected its effectiveness in handling law and order issues.

201. Mr WONG Chun-yeung said that given that no protests had taken place in Islands District, the Police should have sufficient manpower to handle law and order issues in the district, but it was found sloppy in discharging duties.

202. Ms TAM Nga-ching said she would not comment on police strength. Regarding the gambling problem in Tung Chung, the Police had taken enforcement actions and arrested the persons involved. She said that relevant statistics could be provided to Mr WONG Chun-yeung after the meeting and any tip-offs from him would be welcome.

(Post-meeting note of HKPF:

The Police had all along attached importance to combat illegal activities in the district. Regarding street gambling in Tung Chung, a total of 88 operations and inspections were conducted against illegal gambling from December 2019 to February 2020. In December last year, gambling instrument (including playing cards and monies) were seized in Yat Tung Estate twice. In an operation against illegal gambling in January this year, the Police arrested five persons for operating/managing illegal gambling establishment and gambling in a gambling establishment and there was sufficient evidence to institute prosecutions against the persons involved. The Police would continue to gather intelligence and conduct irregular inspections to combat street gambling in the district.)

203. Mr FONG Lung-fei said that the police representatives had not responded in respect of the principle of "enforcing the law when someone broke the law". He stated that as the protest movement against the proposed legislative amendments had entered its ninth month, a total of about 7 000 to 8 000 persons were arrested, representing about 900 arrests per month on average. He pointed out that over 100 arrests were made in

the operations mounted during the past few days and questioned whether equipment upgrade was still necessary.

204. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho said that it was understandable that the Police was unable to provide certain figures at the meeting but it should respond to how masked policemen in plain-clothes were identified at the scene of demonstration. Since the Police should have the guidelines in place and no statistics were involved, he believed that it would only take common sense to respond to the enquiry. In view that masked plainclothes policemen were hit by anti-riot policemen, the enquiry was raised in the interest of policemen and for prevention of accidental injuries to or even death of plain-clothes policemen from stun guns after they were put into use.

205. Mr WONG Chun-yeung thanked the Police for arranging representatives to attend the meeting but queried why the Police had not addressed the above problems which already existed before the large-scale demonstrations took place.

206. Mr LEE Ka-ho enquired whether the Chairman would ask Members to vote on the proposal of the setting up of an ICI and an impromptu motion be raised in this respect.

207. The Chairman expressed his views as follows:

(a) According to the police representatives, the Police had commenced a study on the introduction of stun guns, net guns and other weapons although a decision had not yet been made. He reckoned that when a decision was made, the Police should explain to members of the public their use and provide relevant data. He proposed that Members might raise further enquiries after obtaining more information.

(b) Regarding the setting up of an ICI, he was aware of public concerns but considered it unfair to vote on the proposal at the meeting as the matter was only touched on in the last paragraph of the paper. He proposed that the Members concerned should set out in detail the reasons for establishment of an ICI, the terms of reference, matters of concern and its composition for other Members to study the proposal before putting it to vote. He reminded Members to peruse SB's written reply before raising a motion.

XI. Question on mobile network coverage in Tung Chung
(Paper IDC 34/2020)

208. The Chairman said that the Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA) had provided a written reply for Members' perusal.

209. Mr Sammy TSUI presented the question briefly. He noted OFCA's reply and was dissatisfied with it and regretted that no representatives attended the meeting

to respond to the question. He opined that if the matter was to be referred to OFCA for actions after discussion at the meeting, the problems in the district could not be addressed promptly. He pointed out that with the globe entering the 5G era, there was a need for upgrading service. It was stated in the written reply that there was no licensing requirements currently stipulating that the licensee had to provide mobile network coverage in specific areas. The failure to include such requirement showed that OFCA did not move with the times and that it should revise and review the current provisions. He criticised that telecommunication companies were not subject to regulation after the issue of licence, nor were they required to provide appropriate services to the public. He requested OFCA to review the current licensing regulations. For the written reply stating that “the mobile signal strength was generally satisfactory”, he asked whether “generally satisfactory“ meant that the service was acceptable and indicated that “generally satisfactory“ implied inadequacy of the service, hence a review was required. According to the written reply of OFCA, even though enquiries had been made with the four mobile network operators (MNOs) in respect of the matter, the quality of service could not be ascertained. He pointed out that OFCA said an operator had applied for building a new base station in the estate and approval had been given for installation of devices while the remaining three operators were also preparing for submitting applications, which indirectly acknowledged the existence of problems. OFCA had not requested the MNOs to submit reports regularly after the issue of licence to monitor the mobile network performance and the quality of service. A follow up was made only when public complaints were received. He requested OFCA to review the current licensing system to monitor the MNOs and require them to submit performance pledge regularly, and to urge the four MNOs to build base stations expeditiously to improve the mobile signal within the district. He asked whether OFCA could disclose which MNO provided mobile service in Tung Chung North.

210. The Chairman said that OFCA handled matters in accordance with the Telecommunications Ordinance and proposed Members to conduct site visit with relevant operators. If the mobile signal at certain places was weak, the operator would be asked to build a base station therein. An operator was now granted permit to build a base station and the other three were also preparing for applying for one themselves. It was not just a commercial decision but also one in response to residents’ aspiration. He opined that Mr Sammy TSUI might have misunderstood the written reply. The enquiry was now dealt with by the operator and he suggested Mr TSUI to write to OFCA in his name or request the Secretariat to do so to arrange a site visit for him in the company of the representative to identify places where the mobile signal was weak and examine the feasibility of the construction of base stations. In view of the restrictions under the Ordinance, there was not much one could do. However, a review of the Ordinance was another topic and could be followed up at later time.

211. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho pointed out that there were places in Cheung Chau and Peng Chau where mobile signal was weak. However, the broadband access service in Cheung Chau and Peng Chau was monopolised by a single operator. He hoped that the issue could be brought up for discussion at future meetings.

212. Mr LEE Ka-ho said that the written reply of OFCA stated that a field survey on the coverage of the four local MNOs was conducted and found that Ying Tung Estate, Century Link and The Visionary were covered. He queried the result and questioned whether poor mobile signal reception was considered “generally satisfactory” which was unable to connect to the internet or to make or receive phone calls. He said that apart from Tung Chung North, the same happened in Tung Chung Town Centre area (e.g. Citygate) and little improvement was made despite follow-up with OFCA. He opined that OFCA was obliged to make improvement and should not shift the responsibility to the MNOs. If the stakeholders shifted their responsibilities, the problem would remain unsolved. He hoped that the Chairman would reflect to OFCA the seriousness of the matter and urge it to follow up and make improvement.

213. Mr Ken WONG agreed with Mr Sammy TSUI and said that the broadband service in Cheung Chau and Peng Chau were now monopolised by a single operator which was reluctant to extend fibre-based network though it was capable of doing so, resulting in Peng Chau residents paying hefty charges for broadband service over the years. He pointed out that some places were covered by fibre-based network but residents were required to pay additional connection fees. He hoped that OFCA would introduce more terms and conditions before the issue of licence, e.g. making clear that the spectrum deployed for MNOs to provide service was a public resource. He opined that OFCA was overlooking the needs of residents in remote areas. The relevant matter had been discussed by the district council of previous terms but OFCA failed to address it positively.

214. Mr Sammy TSUI said that the relevant matters were closely related to people’s day-to-day life. The weak mobile signal resulted in poor internet connection, hence affecting the daily life. He hoped that he could conduct site visit to various areas of Islands District with the representative of OFCA to fix the signal problem. The OFCA should understand public sentiments and step up monitoring, rather than just sitting back and doing nothing after the issue of licence, allowing the MNOs to operate freely in the free market.

215. The Chairman requested the Secretariat to write to OFCA, requesting to arrange a site visit to Tung Chung North to identify places with relatively weak signal, which was deemed as the most practical and workable solution to the matter. Members who identified other weak signal areas with disruption of internet connection could send email to the Secretariat within five days and request OFCA in writing to conduct field check and fix the problem.

XII. Question on water pressure problem of Ying Tung Estate
(Paper IDC 35/2020)

216. The Chairman welcomed Mr TONG Ping-tat, Senior Property Service Manager/Hong Kong Island and Islands Region of Housing Department (HD) to the meeting to respond to the question.

217. Mr Sammy TSUI presented the question and added that residents reflected unstable water supply especially in winter as a result of low water pressure, making it easy for young children to get colds while taking a bath. It was learned that HD had conducted water pressure and electricity tests before the intake of Ying Tung Estate and the certificate of occupancy was issued when the test results were satisfactory. However residents still experienced low water pressure. Towngas carried out tests in the estate and found that low water pressure was not related to its installations. Further study revealed that sand and debris built up blocking the water pipes of Ying Tung Estate hence affecting the water flow and water pressure.

218. Mr TONG Ping-tat said that the department received complaints between mid-January and early February, 2020 mainly relating to low fresh water pressure. Investigation revealed that the water booster pump did not function properly and some mercury switch accessories on the roof-top had to be replaced. They were isolated cases and service contractors were informed to carry out repairs. The contractors were told that domestic pipes were found blocked after cleansing of water tanks, resulting in low water pressure and that close attention should be paid to in case the same happened again and checks should be conducted after water tank cleansing. No more complaints about water pressure were received from Ying Tung Estate from February to early March 2020. The water pressure was now normal and HD would continue monitoring closely, respond quickly upon receiving complaints and conduct regular review.

219. Mr WONG Chun-yeung said that there were concerns about coronavirus spreading through drainage systems amid the outbreak, and hoped that HD staff would be deployed to inspect the U-traps of Tung Shing House, Tung Po House and Tung Ma House of Fu Tung Estate during this week.

220. The Chairman reminded Mr WONG that a question from fellow Member was still under discussion and suggested him to follow up on the matter with the representative of HD after the meeting.

221. Mr Sammy TSUI expressed his views as follows:

- (a) The representative of HD said just now that sand and debris entered the household pipes from water tanks during cleansing, and he opined that it was due to inadequate experience or poor quality of work of contractors. He enquired whether the case arose from lack of professional knowledge or human negligence.
- (b) When cleansing the water tanks, the workers followed the established procedures in discharging water and sand and debris. He was not pleased that sand and debris entered the drains of households when water tanks were cleaned.
- (c) He asked whether HD had put in place a performance assessment mechanism that could be used as a reference guide for selection of

contractors. If not, he was worried that the same might arise again affecting our daily life.

222. Mr TONG Ping-tat said that HD had put in place a robust mechanism for management of service contracts such as water tank cleansing. The performance of contractors was assessed and reported on a quarterly basis until the expiry of the contract. During the tendering exercise, the tender prices and the contractors' past performance would be taken into consideration. He promised that the contractors would be reminded to pay attention to the relevant matters when cleansing the water tanks.

XIII. Question on poor hygienic condition at the refuse collection point in Yat Tung Estate
(Paper IDC 36/2020)

223. The Chairman welcomed Mr TONG Ping-tat, Senior Property Service Manager/Hong Kong Island and Islands Region of HD and Ms LAI Wing-sau, Winsy, District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Islands) of Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) to the meeting to respond to the question. A written reply had been provided by FEHD for Members' perusal.

224. Mr Eric KWOK presented the question.

225. Mr TONG Ping-tat responded as follows:

- (a) As mentioned by Mr Eric KWOK, the automatic refuse collection system in Yat Tung (II) Estate was no longer in use since the end of June 2019. The central plant room near the Shui Yat House refuse collection point (RCP) would be converted into a RCP installed with a refuse compactor, bins cleansing machines and de-odorization system. The installation work was anticipated to be completed in late March or early April. HD would also upgrade the refuse collection facility behind the carpark near Hong Yat House upon completion of work, including the installation of equipment mentioned above. The work was anticipated to be completed in July 2020. Both projects would take about three or four months each to complete. Upon completion, there would be a total of three RCPs in Yat Tung (I) and (II) Estates.
- (b) With the cessation of the automatic refuse collection system in Yat Tung (II) Estate, around \$2 million would be saved but the amount so saved could not be used at will or for hiring staff or other incidental purposes. The construction of the two RCPs mentioned earlier cost several hundred million dollars.
- (c) As Mr Eric KWOK stated earlier, many rubbish bins showed signs of wear and tear and HD had bought 660-litre wheeled waste collection bins (WCBs) for use by contractors and cleansing workers.

- (d) Regarding disposal of construction materials at RCPs by decoration workers, estate management staff made inspections frequently and CCTV was installed and banners posted for deterrence, so the situation had been much improved.
- (e) Regarding refuse dumping at the roadside within the estate, HD has identified some of the blackspots and urged the security company to step up monitoring, e.g. deploying staff to conduct more frequent patrols at the black spots for enforcement actions.
- (f) Regarding cleansing workers, the property management company noticed the problem of manpower shortage and would hire six more cleansing workers to meet the demand in the long term after commencement of the new contract on 1 July this year upon the expiry of the old one in June.

226. Ms Winsy LAI said that FEHD had been working in close liaison with HD. Regarding the situation mentioned by Mr Eric KWOK and Mr FONG Lung-fei, FEHD had conducted site visit with Members prior to the Chinese New Year and strengthened the refuse collection service where necessary. As the representative of HD said earlier, FEHD did not collect construction waste. It was stated in the written reply of FEHD that “In large-scale residential developments including public estates where proper refuse storage chambers are provided, FEHD would provide direct refuse collection services as long as there were access roads for refuse collection vehicles to reach these refuse storage chambers.”

227. Mr FONG Long-fei said that the rodent problem at the RCP next to Hong Yat House was serious, and rodents were seen scaling up the exterior pipes to the residential flats, causing nuisance to the residents of the entire Yat Tung Estate. He had even received complaints from residents during night time. He suggested that FEHD splay lubricant on the pipes to prevent rodents from climbing and install rodent guards for lower floor flats.

228. Mr Eric KWOK expressed his views as follows:

- (a) The representative of HD stated right now that the central generator room near the RCP at Shui Yat House would be converted into a refuse collection point and the other one behind the carpark near Hong Yat House would also be upgraded. He requested HD to provide a written reply detailing the hardware and software upgrade as well as relevant manpower arrangement.
- (b) The representative said just now that 660-litre WCBs were bought for use by contractors and cleansing workers. He asked how many WCBs were bought.

- (c) The representative mentioned just now that the contract with the property management company will expire on 30 June this year. He asked HD whether a new management company would be engaged, and if the current one continued to be engaged, whether the staff would get a pay rise and improve monitoring efficiency. He said that the DC of last term had received lots of complaints concerning the hygiene of Yat Tung (I) Estate and there had been complaints from residents over the past two weeks saying that the property management company had not stepped up anti-epidemic measures amid the severe outbreak such as inadequate cleansing of public areas like ground floor lobbies and lifts or the use of far too little bleach for cleansing.
- (d) Regarding the rodent problem raised by Mr FONG Lung-fei, he opined that rodent prevention and control should be implemented in coordination with Tung Chung old estate and FEHD instead of by HD solely.
- (e) He asked apart from the RCP next to Hong Yat House, whether the relevant departments considered setting up RCPs elsewhere in Tung Chung.

229. Ms WONG Chau-ping said that odour was generated from the RCP beside Shui Yat House, Yat Tung Estate in summer and urged HD to follow up to avoid causing nuisance to residents nearby. She was satisfied that FEHD took prompt actions after receiving complaints about rodent infestation.

230. Mr TONG Ping-tat gave consolidated response as follows:

- (a) HD would continue to follow up on the rodent problem with FEHD.
- (b) Mr Eric KWOK had earlier requested HD to provide in writing details of facilities with which the RCPs near Shui Yat House and beside Hong Yat House respectively to be converted or upgraded. HD would provide the details in due course.

(Post-meeting note:

The representatives of HD, property management company and FEHD visited the central plant room near Shui Yat House RCP with Mr Eric KWOK and Mr FONG Lung-fei and explained to them the hardware and software upgrade for the RCPs at Shui Yat House and beside Hong Yat House respectively after conversion and upgrade, including the anticipated refuse handling workflow. The automatic refuse collection system in Yat Tung (II) Estate was no longer in use since mid-2019. Works were now in progress to convert the central plant room near Shui Yat House into a RCP and upgrade the refuse collection facilities in the RCP next to Hong Yat House. The RCPs would be installed with refuse compactors and refuse handling facilities such as bins cleansing

machines and de-odorization system. The enhancement works were expected to be completed in July 2020. Upon completion, there would be a total of three RCPs in Yat Tung (I) and (II) Estates.)

- (c) HD had procured a total of 180 660-litre WCBs.
- (d) Regarding the outsourced property management service period, the new contract would come into force on 1 July this year. Successful tenderer would hire the security guards and cleansing workers and it was not yet known whether the new contractor would hire the current staff.
- (e) Regarding insufficient cleansing of public areas such as ground floor lobbies mentioned by Mr Eric KWOK, HD would conduct inspection with him and follow up.

231. Ms Winsy LAI said that regarding the question of whether FEHD would set up RCPs in other places in Tung Chung, the Government would normally make plans beforehand but FEHD had so far not received any information about setting up of RCPs in Tung Chung old area (in the vicinity of Yat Tung Estate). She reiterated that in large residential developments (including public housing developments) with proper refuse storage chambers where the refuse collection vehicles of FEHD could access, refuse collection services would be provided. Citing the case of Yat Tung Estate which HD said would have three more RCPs, she said if the review showed that the RCPs could be accessed direct by refuse collection vehicles, FEHD would allocate resources flexibly to provide collection services for household refuse where appropriate.

232. The Chairman asked HD to respond to the odour problem of RCPs.

233. Mr TONG Ping-tat reiterated that HD would install de-odorization systems in the new RCPs, step up routine cleansing, keep the rubbish bin lids tightly closed and prevent accumulation of stagnant water and refuse. Routine cleansing would be followed up.

XIV. Question on provision of Lennon wall in Tung Chung district
(Paper IDC 37/2020)

234. The Chairman welcomed Mr TONG Ping-tat, Senior Property Service Manager/Hong Kong Island and Islands Region of HD, Ms LAI Wing-sau, Winsy, District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Islands) of FEHD and Ms TAM Nga-ching, District Commander (Lantau District) of Hong Kong Police Force to the meeting to respond to the question. The FEHD, HD and Security Bureau had provided written replies for Members' perusal.

235. Mr WONG Chun-yeung said that the question was raised in response to Tung Chung residents' aspirations and had nothing to do with his own wishes or political stance. At the question session at a residents' meeting held on 5 January 2020 by a

community group named “Tung Chung Future”, residents expressed that owing to limited resources, the DC and relevant government departments were unable to collect public opinions while some residents said that they were unfamiliar with the complaint procedures and hoped that Lennon Walls would be set up in the district for them to express views as they wished. He presented the question and said that a Lennon Wall or notice board could be set up at the bus terminus (where Post-it notes and posters were put up currently) opposite Exit B of Tung Chung MTR Station if HD could not find any suitable sites for setting up a Lennon Wall.

236. Ms Winsy LAI said that FEHD had provided a written reply for Members’ perusal and the same responses had been made to similar questions at other DCs.

237. Mr TONG Ping-tat presented briefly the written reply of HD and added that there were not many locations available in Fu Tung Estate for people to display publicity materials and some locations had been used for putting up Government notices.

238. Ms TAM Nga-ching said that the Security Bureau had given the same reply in writing to Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho’s question and she had nothing to add. She stressed that the Police maintained a neutral stance in law enforcement and it was its duty to maintain law and order, gather evidence actively to ensure fair and impartial investigations and arrest suspected offenders with impartiality.

239. Mr FONG Lung-fei supported setting up Lennon Walls for residents to scribble their demands. To avoid residents feeling helpless with no one to turn to, he considered setting up Lennon Walls outside his office for residents to stick notes of their demands at night and he could then follow up next morning. He pointed out that the setting up of Lennon Walls was for residents to express their views which were not necessarily linked to the anti-extradition bill movement. He considered that the outer walls in Yat Tung Estate were fairly monotonous and boring in design and Lennon Walls could enhance their appearance.

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

- (a) He supported setting up Lennon Walls for residents to stick notes of demands. As Mr FONG Lung-fei said just now, Lennon Walls were not necessarily linked to anti-extradition bill movement. They were set up for residents to express opinions. For example, many residents stuck information about virus prevention on Lennon Walls lately, including advice on washing hands and wearing masks properly to protect oneself against coronavirus. He opined that Lennon Walls could facilitate information dissemination more effectively than official channels.
- (b) The written reply of FEHD listed a number of reasons for disallowing the setting up of Lennon Walls, e.g. statements of suspected infringement of privacy, personal attacks and containing defamatory, false and obscene content were found on the Lennon Walls in some areas. Scuffles also

broke out at Lennon Walls with people wounded, and there were arson, damages to property as well as environmental hygiene problems, etc. He opined that the above was not triggered by Lennon Walls but public outrage against the extradition bill. Therefore, the Government should respond positively to matters arising from the bill instead of opposing the setting up of Lennon Walls.

- (c) As Mr WONG Chun-yeung said, Hong Kong residents had freedom of speech, of the press and of publication. Lennon Walls provided an additional avenue for people to express opinions. The departmental representative said earlier that there were places for organisations to put up posters but he knew that only specified organisations could do so and that the content of posters had to be approved. Members of the public might give up because of the complex procedures.

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

- (a) He stressed that it was not for the Police to decide whether a citizen had broken the law, and had just asked how the police officers identified people wearing masks at the demonstration were plainclothes policemen. He clarified that he had explained his point clearly and was puzzled why the police representative did not understand his question.
- (b) To his knowledge, it was against law to plaster Post-it notes in public areas of Government land to express opinions. He asked whether FEHD would arrest the persons concerned or inform the Police to take enforcement actions.

242. Ms Josephine TSANG said that a pluralistic society should accept different thinking and ideas, and the setting up of Lennon Walls would cause social divisiveness and animosity. In recent months people with different political views quarrelled with each other and she did not want to see anything like this go on. While a Member said earlier that Lennon Walls could help Members understand public sentiment and take follow up actions, she opined that they were sparked by anti-extradition bill movement and sensitive wording was used, and she suggested that the places used for sticking Post-it notes for expressing opinions should be named “liberty corner”, “aspiration corner” or “feedback board”, etc.

243. Ms WONG Chau-ping said that coronavirus dealt another blow to Hong Kong as its socio-economic conditions were recovering from the impact of anti-extradition bill movement. She opined that all quarters should bury the hatchet and focus more on improving people’s livelihood, stimulating the economy and reduction of unemployment. She hoped that the outbreak would soon ease so that life could get back to normal.

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

- (a) He agreed with Ms Josephine TSANG on naming of Lennon walls. He stressed that they were set up for people with different political beliefs to express opinions and if Members found the words used sensitive, he supported naming the places for people to stick Post-it notes with their views “pro-democracy corner”, “liberty corner”, “aspiration corner” or “feedback wall” etc. It was most important that there was an avenue for people to express opinions.
- (b) His proposal for setting up of Lennon Walls was not meant to fuel political conflicts but to provide an avenue for people to express their thoughts via peaceful means following confrontations among people of different political beliefs over the anti-extradition bill movement. He believed that freedom of speech was not unconstrained, and Members had the duty to remind people to express opinions with reasonable constraints while there should be room available for people with different political beliefs to get their voices heard.
- (c) Regarding remarks that unpleasant incidents such as conflicts or scuffles would be sparked by Lennon Walls, he opined that problems persisted before the springing up of Lennon Walls and these social conflicts were not triggered by Lennon Walls. He hoped that Members would support the setting up of Lennon Walls to respond to public aspiration and ease social tensions.
- (d) If the relevant departments agreed to set up Lennon Walls, he would be willing to discuss with residents the content of messages posted, e.g. banning those containing personal attacks or insulting content.

245. Ms Amy YUNG expressed her views as follows:

- (a) She supported setting up pro-democracy or feedback walls for residents to plaster notes with their aspirations, which could help raise civic awareness and develop mutual respect. She did not think naming the places important though DC would have to discuss how the opinions collected should be handled.
- (b) She said that Hong Kong residents had freedom of speech, and suppression of free expression might give rise to public outrage. She urged the relevant departments to take a pragmatic and inclusive approach to manage the spaces reserved for residents to attach notes with aspirations.

246. Mr Sammy TSUI expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He supported setting up Lennon Walls in Tung Chung district. He agreed with Mr WONG Chun-yeung that social conflicts were not triggered by Lennon Walls. Instead, they reflected the dissatisfaction of

people with law enforcers. Therefore Lennon Walls appeared containing notes critical of the law enforcers or the Government.

- (b) He said that Lennon Walls were first created in 1980 when someone wrote comments on an ordinary wall in Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic. It was now widely accepted throughout the world as a way to express opinions.
- (c) He did not think the naming of relevant places important. Besides social movement, people could scribble on Lennon Walls their opinions on livelihood matters, e.g. the Government subsidy of \$3 million for institutions and organisations in mask production. Lennon Walls also provided an additional avenue for property management companies, HD and FEHD to collect public opinions in formulating policies in line with public demand. He hoped that the Government would respond to public demand and that the relevant departments would set up pro-democracy or feedback walls and oversee the content of posted materials to avoid posting of notices and property advertisements everywhere. He requested HD to follow up actively.

247. Mr FONG Lung-fei said that he would apply to HD for using a grey wall (close to Kat Yat House) near his ward office as pro-democracy or feedback wall so that residents, if emotionally affected, could vent their feelings instead of bottling up and committing self-destructive acts. He would manage the wall and follow up on residents' opinions and remove those containing personal attacks. He hoped that HD would adopt an open attitude towards pro-democracy or feedback walls and improve the wall appearance.

248. Mr Eric KWOK expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He opined that DC should first make clear the purpose of pro-democracy or feedback walls. If they were used for collecting public opinions or for people to vent their feelings, he suggested that the district member of the constituency manage and deal with the opinions received.
- (b) He proposed that funds be allocated by the District Facilities Management Committee (DFMC) for clean-up of pro-democracy or feedback walls. The district members of each district could apply for space for setting up a pro-democracy wall for people to express opinions. The district members of each district should be responsible for overseeing and follow up on the opinions, and anyway more effectively than HD.

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

- (a) He agreed that a motion be moved at the DFMC meeting to set up a Lennon Wall in the district, and gave support for Mr Eric KWOK's proposal for the committee to allocate funds for clean-up of the wall.
- (b) If the motion passed, he believed that volunteers could be recruited within a short time to do cleaning. For the past six to nine months, some citizens started to clean Lennon Walls, and there might be no need for HD or District Office to allocate funds for the clean-up.
- (c) As residents volunteered to clear away posts on Lennon Walls of provocative nature, one needed not worry about possible misuse or content containing personal attacks and smears. Lennon Walls provided an avenue for people to vent their frustration, hence preventing graffiti on or damages to garden facilities of Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) or HD.
- (d) Lennon Walls were even more popular than notice boards or street forums and could help promote inclusiveness in the community. If other Members found the Lennon Walls sounded sensitive, they could be renamed "liberty corner" or "feedback board", etc.

250. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho asked the department concerned to respond to his earlier question.

251. The Chairman requested Ms Wincy LAI to respond to Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho's question.

252. Ms Wincy LAI gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) In short, the discussion by Members just now concerned display of non-commercial publicity materials. Such materials were now handled by FEHD and the Lands Department (LandsD) jointly to tie in with the Management Scheme for the Display of Roadside Non-commercial Publicity Materials (NCPMs).
- (b) Under the Management Scheme, LandsD processed applications submitted by Legislative Council (LegCo) members, district council members, government departments and eligible organisations for display of NCPMs at designated roadside locations and written approval would be given to those eligible.
- (c) LandsD and FEHD conducted joint operations regularly against unauthorised NCPMs displayed on the roadside. The former checked the roadside publicity materials whether permission was given under the Management Scheme or the display was in compliance with the Management Scheme implementation guidelines. Unauthorised NCPMs or those displayed not complying with the implementation

guidelines would be removed by FEHD in accordance with the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132) and removal cost would be recovered from the persons concerned.

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

- (a) He noted that LandsD and FEHD conducted joint operations against unauthorised roadside NCPMs. However, in the past six months, he saw a number of clean-up operations mounted at a Lennon Wall in the tunnel of Tai Po by up to 30-40 police officers. Did the Police have the authority to take enforcement actions against roadside NCPMs? If not, would the Police give an explanation for the actions?
- (b) If it was against law to display publicity materials in public place, he asked whether it was unlawful to tear down publicity materials put up by others. He learned from the news media that the Police had time and again protected people who tore down publicity materials from Lennon Walls and did not issue warnings to them. He hoped that the relevant departments would respond to this.
- (c) The media and Members said that Lennon Walls sparked off unpleasant incidents such as conflicts or scuffles. He opined that different political affiliation and inappropriate handling by relevant departments triggered confrontations in society.
- (d) He agreed that the name of Lennon Walls had political implications. If Members objected to setting up of Lennon Walls because of political implications, they should, basing on the same principle, treat the donations to the Police and patriotic marches, etc. the same way for their political implications. If the Police could accept the donations and issue a notice of no objection to the organisers of the marches, Members should then not veto the request for setting up Lennon Walls because of the political implications of the name.

254. Ms Wincy LAI said that the display of notices or publicity materials in public place was regulated under the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance and the departments in charge were responsible for managing the above in different venues or public areas. There were presently two Lennon Walls in Tung Chung, one at Tung Chung Bus Terminus and the other in the pedestrian tunnel NS231 at Tat Tung Road, Tung Chung. As unpleasant incidents such as conflicts or scuffles had taken place at Lennon Walls in certain areas, FEHD requested the Highways Department, TD, Architectural Services Department and the Police to mount joint clearance operations to clear up Lennon Walls.

255. Ms TAM Nga-ching reiterated that the Police would take enforcement actions against unlawful acts with impartiality. She had nothing to add about the incidents in Tung Chung and Tai Po areas for the time being.

256. Mr WONG Chun-yeung hoped that a provisional motion on erecting Lennon Wall in Tung Chung could be raised after the discussion, or the discussion could continue at the DFMC meeting. He opined that some citizens were unhappy with the streets covered with publicity materials. He did not think erecting Lennon Wall in the tunnel NS231 desirable and proposed that one be set up in Tung Chung Bus Terminus. He opined that the wall provided a lawful platform for people to stick notes with their demands, helped minimise conflicts and also allowed visitors to have a glimpse of Hong Kong culture.

257. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho pointed out that the Police representative had said many times that the Police would enforce the law if someone broke the law. To his knowledge, only a judge had the authority to determine whether anyone breached the law. He hoped the Police would make a clarification.

258. Ms TAM Nga-ching clarified that the Police would take enforcement actions against suspected unlawful acts and arrest suspects.

259. The Chairman expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He agreed with Mr Eric KWOK and Ms Amy YUNG and said that factors such as the locations, repair and management of Lennon Walls and arrangement for follow up on public opinions, etc. should be taken into consideration.
- (b) He said that two Lennon Walls were erected in his constituency and residents had taken the initiative to clean up one of the walls, with the other now displaying fewer publicity materials. If a motion was raised to erect a Lennon Wall in the district, he would oppose it on behalf of the constituents.
- (c) He supported that the matter of erecting message walls in the district be discussed at the DFMC meeting so that the Member of the constituency would consider whether to set up message walls according to the residents' views. If the answer was in the affirmative, the Member should then be responsible for managing them. He opined that the message walls provided a platform for people to voice their aspiration and communicate with Members and that any messages containing personal attacks should be banned. If the proposal was endorsed, he suggested that the Member of the constituency consult the relevant departments on the location of the walls and bring up the issues such as the operation, management and maintenance of the walls for discussion at the DFMC meeting.

XV. Question on request for re-provisioning of Urban Council
(Paper IDC 38/2020)

260. The Chairman welcomed Ms LAI Wing-sau, Winsy, District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Islands) of FEHD and Ms TAM Nga-ching, District Commander (Lantau District) of HKPF to the meeting to respond to the question. The Transport and Housing Bureau (THB), FEHD and LCSD had provided written replies for Members' perusal.

261. Mr WONG Chun-yeung said that the raising of a question rather than a motion was to allow Members to have sufficient discussion on the topic. He hoped that the departments concerned would give a reply as soon as possible. He presented the question briefly and said that the Secretariat had replaced the words "leaflets of Falun Gong" in the question with "materials posted by elderly people".

262. The Chairman said that Part 2 of the question was related to development of Tung Chung which was brought up for discussion earlier and the relevant department provided a written reply without arranging representatives to attend the meeting to give a response. He suggested leaving Part 2 for discussion later with the issue of development after the relevant department reported the latest development of Tung Chung, and hoped that construction work of Tung Chung West and Tung Chung East MTR stations would commence the soonest possible. He asked Members whether they agreed to focus the discussion on Parts 1, 3 and 4 of the question first.

263. Mr WONG Chun-yeung said that during the discussion on arming police officers with stun guns and net guns, he had enquired how the Police would tackle the gambling activities in Tung Chung, so there was no need for Police representative to respond again. The Urban Council assumed a wide range of responsibilities and provided infrastructure and facilities, e.g. Hong Kong Central Library and Hong Kong Stadium to cater to people's needs before its dissolution. Its ambit covered people's daily lives, public housing waiting time as well as prevention of unlawful land occupation by developers, etc. He pointed out that while the DC of the current term emphasised frequently that attention would be paid to livelihood matters, it just played an advisory role and had no actual authority. He hoped that Members present would support re-provisioning of Urban Council. He opined that DC and LegCo were only suitable for implementing district works while livelihood issues such as shop rent, bus routes and MTR facilities should be better dealt with by Urban Council.

264. The Chairman said that Mr WONG Chun-yeung had already given examples in respect of the four questions to show that DC had no actual authority. He asked Members to give comments.

265. Mr Sammy TSUI opined that the ultimate aim of Mr WONG's question was to expand the functions of DCs. Before dissolution, the Urban Council could exercise certain authority where town planning and engineering management were concerned. If DC took up part of its functions, many problems at the district level could be resolved and enhancement of district facilities would be possible. Lots of minor work projects

were now outsourced. For example, the markets in public housing estates were managed by the Link Asset Management Limited (The Link), and only a few markets were managed by FEHD. Tung Chung had no public markets. The management of markets was closely related to the daily lives of people. If DC could make decisions on issues such as the construction and management of markets, there would be positive impacts on people's everyday life and district facilities development. Although having a history of twenty to thirty years, DC was just an advisory body without actual authority or sufficient resources, resulting in many district and livelihood issues remained unresolved. He hoped that the suggestion would be made to LegCo or the Government.

266. Mr Eric KWOK agreed with Mr WONG Chun-yeung and suggested that the Government should delegate authority to DCs. He did not think their discussion would bear fruit, and he would consult the Chairmen of 17 other district councils with Mr WONG Chun-yeung and if support was secured, he would issue letters to the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau and the Home Affairs Bureau in the name of 18 district councils for delegation of authority to DCs

267. The Chairman pointed out that Mr WONG Chun-yeung had already said that the purpose of raising the question was to provide a platform for Members to express opinions, not to ask Members to vote on the issue.

268. Ms Amy YUNG expressed her views as follows:

- (a) She supported Mr WONG Chun-yeung's idea. After the dissolution of Urban Council, a power vacuum occurred although some of its functions were taken up by a number of departments. Owing to their size, big departments might be ineffective and not understand public sentiment, resulting in poor performance. If the Government delegated authority to DCs, the latter could complement with the departments and help implement district work.
- (b) At present IDC could only discuss matters concerning villages or islands individually. If sufficient power and resources were bestowed upon it, it could take a holistic approach to discuss the general development of Islands District.
- (c) Regarding the respective geographical constituencies of DCs and LegCo, there were five electoral districts for LegCo election and Islands District fell within the New Territories West covering a vast expanse of land. She opined that the LegCo members of the constituency might not be well-acquainted with district affairs, nor did they take the initiative to consult DC members on the development of the New Territories West, while DC members of the constituency had no actual authority to monitor the works and project implementation in the districts. She had been elected DC member for 20 years and found the problems still existed with little improvement made. The Government provided written replies to

Members' questions perfunctorily and failed to address the problems squarely.

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

- (a) The DCs and LegCo failed to address livelihood issues satisfactorily, and re-provisioning of Urban Council could achieve better result with minimal efforts and help mend the social divide. Members, be they of pro-democracy or establishment camps, criticised the DCs and LegCo for failing to address livelihood issues effectively.
- (b) To support the Lantau Tomorrow Vision, developers might make mass acquisition of small houses on Lantau Island. The Choi Yuen Tsuen incident and protests against the northeast New Territories development proposal would happen again. If the Urban Council was not dissolved, it could issue administrative orders to prevent developers from acquiring small houses at high prices or using trickery.
- (c) As Mr Sammy TSUI said just now, there was a strong demand for public markets in Tung Chung. Owing to its geographic remoteness and the high tolls for Tsing Ma Bridge, the commodity prices in Tung Chung were higher than other districts. The Urban Council, if re-established, could then issue administrative orders to require The Link to return power in the management of shopping malls and markets and call for tenders for procurement of services of other property management companies, or invoke the Lands Resumption Ordinance to repossess from The Link the shopping malls and markets for management by Urban Council or FEHD with a view to preventing monopoly and keeping commodities cheap.
- (d) Members were welcome to express views on the proposal for re-provisioning of Urban Council. He hoped that the proposal would be voted on at the meeting or referred to the working group for discussion.

270. Mr Ken WONG supported the proposal for re-provisioning of Urban Council. The former Urban Council endorsed a stadium project in Peng Chau which would not have been permitted according to the prevailing planning standards. Although the Government pledged to delegate its authority to DCs, the government departments seldom arranged representatives to attend the meetings to respond to Members' questions. In most cases, they provided written replies without taking follow-up actions. He opined that Urban Council had sufficient resources and could make decisions at its discretion without restraints imposed by other departments.

271. Mr LEE Ka-ho supported delegating the authority of the former Urban Council to DCs. After dissolution, the responsibilities of Urban Council were mostly undertaken by FEHD and LCSD which were bigger in scale but less efficient and could not meet public expectation. It had been years since Hong Kong last built a new public

market. The relevant government departments failed to give a positive response upon requests by various districts' DCs for provision of public markets, and did not attend the DC meetings to respond to Members' questions and listen to their views attentively. If DCs had resources and decision-making power, he believed the situation would have been improved.

272. The Chairman said that whether the proposal for delegation of the former Urban Council's authority to DCs or re-provisioning of the Urban Council or Regional Council concerned structural reforms of the Government and district-level constitutional reforms and was not suitable for discussion at the DC level. He requested the Secretariat to consolidate Members' opinions for referral to the relevant policy bureaux. When the time was ripe, he would invite the relevant Members to sign up for moving a motion to put pressure on the Government.

273. Mr WONG Chun-yeung reiterated that the purpose of raising the question was to provide an opportunity for Members to have a full discussion, and he hoped that the Chairman would allow him to move a preliminary motion which stated "DC requests the Government to delegate authority to the District Councils, re-provision the Urban Council and Regional Council or to relaunch the city council system." Mr Eric KWOK suggested to nominate a member representative to liaise with other DCs on re-provisioning of the Urban Council, and said that he had contacted the Chairmen of North, Tai Po, Eastern and Southern DCs.

274. The Chairman proposed that a voting be held on the proposal for delegating the authority to DCs.

275. Mr Ken WONG suggested that Mr WONG Chun-yeung submit the motion to the Secretariat with details for voting at the DC meeting in April.

276. The Chairman, after listening to Mr Ken WONG's opinions, advised Mr WONG Chun-yeung to submit the motion at the next meeting for discussion and voting.

XVI. Progress on District-led Actions Scheme (Paper IDC 40/2020)

277. Mr Thomas LI presented the paper.

278. Mr Eric KWOK expressed gratitude to IsDO for taking forward the project of developing a sitting-out area at On Tung Street, Tung Chung. He hoped that IsDO would step up publicity to encourage residents to make optimal use of it.

279. Mr Thomas LI responded that IsDO would work with relevant departments to step up publicity to make the best use of the facility.

280. Members voted on the proposals set out in the paper. There were 16 voted for and the paper was endorsed.

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

XVII. Proposed Schedule for Islands DC Committees' meetings in 2020
(Paper IDC 41/2020)

281. The Secretary reported that according to Section 13(1) of the Standing Orders, any member who wished to raise an item for discussion at a meeting was required to submit relevant papers to the Secretary 10 clear working days before the meeting. The meetings of the committees in March were rescheduled. Members wished to raise items for discussion at the Community Affairs, Culture and Recreation Committee (CACRC) meeting on 18 March were required to submit relevant papers by tomorrow.

282. The Chairman said that since it was near close of play, he proposed extending the deadline for submitting questions by a half day to 12:00 noon on 4 March.

283. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho enquired whether the Secretariat would not remind Members by email to submit questions raised at small-scale meetings.

284. The Secretary responded that since the meeting schedule would be endorsed at the meeting today and emails be sent upon confirmation of meeting dates, the Secretariat would send emails to Members after today's meeting.

285. The Chairman said that the agenda items were discussed separately at two meetings due to the epidemic, hence the delay in endorsing the meeting schedule. He asked the Chairman of CACRC to consider his proposal of extending the deadline for submitting questions to 12:00 noon on 4 March.

286. CACRC Chairman Mr WONG Man-hon agreed to the arrangement.

287. Members voted on the proposed meeting schedule set out in the paper. There were 17 voted for and the proposed meeting schedule was endorsed.

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

XVIII. Up-to-date Financial Position on the Use of DC Funds
(Paper IDC 42/2020)

288. The Secretary presented the paper. She indicated that due to the novel coronavirus epidemic, various activities including “Islands District Cantonese Opera Show in Celebration of the Lunar New Year” and “Islands District Road Safety Day cum Outstanding Captains/Drivers Awards Presentation” organised by CACRC Activities Working Group of IDC were cancelled. A number of local groups also decided to cancel the community involvement projects funded by IDC due to the epidemic. She said that some grantees applied for reimbursement of expenses incurred in the preparation process or implementation of projects, including printing of project publicity materials and invitation cards, postage expenses and staff allowance, etc. She asked Members to consider whether they approved for the reimbursement of the expenses concerned. Upon endorsement, the Secretariat would request the grantees to submit final report, income and expenditure statement, receipts and other supporting documents in accordance with established procedures for making reimbursement claims on an accountable and reasonable basis. Apart from cross-year projects, reimbursement for funded projects should normally be made in the current fiscal year. Where the reimbursement procedures for individual projects could not be completed in the current fiscal year, payment should be made within the next fiscal year.

289. Mr LEE Ka-ho said that while DC-funded projects including “outsourced DC notice board cleaning and notice posting service” were listed in the paper, he noticed that the notices of the last term of DC were still displayed on the notice board in Tung Chung.

290. Ms Amy YUNG said that the works at Discovery Bay were completed and enquired about the whereabouts of the notice board.

291. The Secretary responded that the notice boards were used for displaying notices of DC meetings and the contractor would put up notices before each meeting and take photos as evidence. As for the notice board of Discovery Bay, the Secretariat was liaising with the Discovery Bay property management office for repossessing the notice board as soon as possible. She explained that the contract for notice board cleaning and notice posting service covered 16 notice boards, and the service charges would not be reduced if the number of notice boards was one less.

292. Mr YUNG Chi-ming said that for the “Cheung Chau Bun Festival Grand Parade” listed in the paper, the parade was cancelled this year and the related expenses were merely incurred from the Bun Festival activity.

293. Mr LEE Ka-ho said that he remembered that the notice of meeting in September last year was still stuck on the notice board in Tung Chung.

294. Ms Amy YUNG noted that the “district feature and arts & cultural activities” shown in the paper included various festive events. She said that the “Big Picnic” held in Discovery Bay every year attracted many locals and foreigners and hoped that it could be included in the “district feature activities”. She also opined that festive events should also be held in Tung Chung.

295. Mr FONG Lung-fei noticed that new notices were put up on the notice boards recently but considered the overall cleanliness unsatisfactory.

296. The Chairman asked the Secretariat to follow up on the notice board service. He suggested Ms Amy YUNG to submit the proposal of district feature activities to CACRC.

297. Members voted on the paper and the arrangement proposed by the Secretary. There were 16 voted for, one against and one abstaining. The paper and the proposal were endorsed.

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

XIX. Nomination for representative(s) in public organisation

298. The Chairman said that the Secretariat received letters from the Hospital Authority (HA) and the Buildings Department (BD) requesting nomination of a member sitting on the Hong Kong Regional Advisory Committee (HKRAC) of HA as community member and to field candidates for lay representatives of the Disciplinary Board under the Building Authority. He had earlier proposed nominating Ms WONG Chau-ping to sit on HKRAC as community member on behalf of IDC and then knew that Ms Amy YUNG expressed interest in becoming a member. He enquired whether Members had other nominations.

299. Ms Amy YUNG hoped that there would be a change of the practice of the Chairman naming nominees and proposed that discussion be held at the meeting for nomination of members with commitment to fill the posts. She also proposed that the nominees should solicit Members’ views before attending meetings on behalf of IDC and report to Members after the meetings.

300. The Chairman noted the views of Ms Amy YUNG and enquired whether Ms WONG Chau-ping accepted the nomination.

301. Ms WONG Chau-ping said that if Ms Amy YUNG was interested in becoming a representative on the HKRAC, she would be glad to withdraw from consideration.

302. The Chairman enquired whether Ms Amy YUNG accepted the nomination as the representative on HKRAC.

303. Ms Amy YUNG indicated that she had been a representative on the committee under BD and would like to continue serving on the committee on behalf of IDC.

304. Members voted on nominating Ms WONG Chau-ping to serve as a community member on HKRAC. There were 15 voted for, one against and two abstaining. The nomination was endorsed.

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

305. Members voted on nominating Ms Amy YUNG as lay representative of the Disciplinary Board under the Building Authority and the nomination was unanimously agreed.

306. The Chairman said that nominations for Members to assume public office on behalf of IDC would be made in this manner in the future. In case of a tight schedule of nomination, Members' views would be sought by circulation of papers.

XX. Date of Next Meeting

307. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m. The next meeting would be held on 20 April 2020 (Monday) at 10:30 a.m.

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