

(Translation)

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

Date : 8 April 2025 (Tuesday)

Time : 2:30 p.m.

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

Present

Chairman

Mr WONG Man-hon, MH

Vice-Chairman

Mr HUI Chun-lung, MH

Members

Mr HO Siu-kei

Mr HO Chun-fai

Mr YU Hon-kwan, MH, JP

Mr NG Man-kit

Mr CHOW Yuen-kuk, Jonathan

Mr CHOW Yuk-tong, SBS, MH

Ms KWOK Wai-man, Mealoha

Mr WONG Hon-kuen, Ken

Mr YIP Pui-kei

Mr LAU Chin-pang

Ms LAU Suk-han

Ms LAU Shun-ting

Co-opted Members

Ms XIANG Ming-han

Mr NG Tak-wai

Attendance by Invitation

Ms CHOW Siu-fung, Cora

Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Central Western, Southern and Islands)2, Social Welfare Department

Mr CHAO Ka-man, Stanley

Senior Liaison Officer (1), Islands District Office

Ms LIU Pui-shan, Lis

Senior Liaison Officer (2), Islands District Office

In Attendance

Ms CHU Lai-yeo, Agnes

Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Islands,
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Ms CHUNG Chi-yuen, Candy

Senior Librarian (Islands) (Acting),

Ms LEUNG Wai-nga, Viola

Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Ms LO Wing-yee, Rachel

Senior Manager (New Territories South) Promotion,
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

School Development Officer (Wanchai & Islands),
Education Bureau

Secretary

Ms CHAN Ying-tung, Shadow

Executive Officer (District Council)1, Islands District Office

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Welcoming Remarks

The Chairman welcomed representatives of government departments and Members to the meeting, and introduced the following representative of department:

- (a) Ms LO Wing-yee, Rachel, School Development Officer (Wanchai & Islands) of the Education Bureau, who stood in for Ms HO Yee-hung.

I. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 11 February 2025

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

II. Social Welfare Department Central Western, Southern and Islands District Social Welfare Office 2025-26 Annual Work Plan (CICRC Paper No. 9/2025)

3. The Chairman drew Members' attention to the CICRC Paper No. 9/2025, and welcomed Ms CHOW Siu-fung, Cora, Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Central Western, Southern and Islands)2 of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) to the meeting to present the paper.

4. Ms Cora CHOW briefly presented the paper.

5. Members expressed their views as follows:

- (a) According to the paper, the SWD implemented the District Services and Community Care Teams – Scheme on Supporting Elderly and Carers to

help identify singleton and doubleton elderly households in need of support, carers of elderly persons, and carers of persons with disabilities through visits and contacts. Cases which required assistance would be referred to social welfare service units for follow-up. However, the distribution of residential respite service places for the elderly was uneven across various districts. For example, the Central and Western District and the Southern District had 22 and 18 places respectively, while the Islands District had only two. In view of the growing population in Tung Chung New Town, Members believed that under the current uneven distribution of respite places, the Department would not be able to cope with the cases referred by the Community Care Teams and provide support to elderly persons in need. In this connection, the Department should provide more residential respite places in Tung Chung New Town to meet the local demand.

- (b) With the development of Tung Chung New Town, the population in the area would continue to grow. In this regard, Members enquired whether the SWD would allocate additional resources in response to the population growth, with a view to meeting the welfare needs of local residents. In addition, as many of the newly moved-in residents were young families, Members enquired whether the Department would provide targeted support services, such as increasing the places for home-based child care service, in order to assist families in need.
- (c) Members understood that the Housing Department (HD) could not complete certain construction projects on schedule, as a result, some non-governmental organisations (NGOs), particularly those receiving subvention from the SWD under the Lump Sum Grant Subvention System, had not yet been able to establish service points in Tung Chung's new public housing estates with imminent intake. Without service points, the NGOs concerned would face difficulties in providing appropriate social welfare services to the newly moved-in residents. In this regard, Members asked the SWD about the plans for NGOs to set up service points in the area.
- (d) Noting that the approval rate for applications under the Community Care Service Voucher Scheme for the Elderly (CCSV) in the Islands District was relatively low, Members asked the Department about the approval status of such applications. In addition, Members requested the Department to assist the Recognised Service Providers (RSPs) under the CCSV in strengthening publicity about the scheme, so that the elderly in the district could better understand and utilise the existing social welfare services, thereby enhancing their sense of satisfaction and well-being.

6. Ms Cora CHOW gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) The SWD was highly concerned about the progress of completion of the

new public housing estates in Tung Chung. To cope with the future population growth, the Department had planned to set up multiple welfare service facilities in the Tung Chung New Town Extension area, including residential care homes for the elderly, day care centres for the elderly, neighbourhood elderly centres, residential care homes for persons with disabilities, integrated children and youth services centres, integrated community centres for mental wellness, etc. The fitting-out works for these facilities would commence after the official handover of the relevant welfare premises by the HD, followed by the subsequent intake of service units. During the interim period, newly settled residents could obtain appropriate service support through other service units in the area. The SWD would provide detailed information on the welfare measures in response to the population growth in Tung Chung at the District Infrastructure and Development Planning Committee meeting scheduled for 24 June 2025.

- (b) Information indicated that the utilisation of residential and day respite places for the elderly in the district had not yet reached full capacity. Members were welcome to discuss any individual cases requiring assistance with the Department after the meeting.
- (c) The Department had launched the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project across all the 18 districts in Hong Kong, providing centre-based and home-based child care services for families in need of support. As of December 2024, the number of home-based child carers in the Islands District had increased to 102. The SWD encouraged service provider in the district to step up publicity of the Project, so that more citizens could know and make good use of the relevant services.
- (d) Elderly persons who had been assessed and recommended for community care services (CCS) or residential care services (RCS) under the Standardised Care Need Assessment Mechanism for Elderly Services and were waitlisting for subsidised CCS and/or RCS on the Central Waiting List for Subsidised Long Term Care Services without any kind of RCS or subsidised CCS being received were eligible to apply for the CCSV under the SWD. In addition, the SWD would encourage the RSPs under the CCSV in the district to strengthen publicity efforts, so that people in the district could know and make good use of the relevant services. Members were welcome to discuss any individual cases requiring assistance with the SWD after the meeting.

III. Annual Community Involvement Programme Plan of the Islands District Office in 2025-26 (April 2025 to March 2026)
(CICRC Paper No. 10/2025)

7. The Chairman drew Members' attention to the CICRC Paper No. 10/2025, and welcomed Mr CHAO Ka-man, Stanley, Senior Liaison Officer (1) and Ms LIU Pui-

shan, Lis, Senior Liaison Officer (2) of the Islands District Office to the meeting to respond to the enquiries.

8. Members noted the content of the paper.

IV. Reports on the work of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department in the Islands District in 2024-25

(i) Arts and Cultural Activities
(CICRC Paper No. 6/2025)

9. The Chairman drew Members' attention to the CICRC Paper No. 6/2025, and welcomed Ms LEUNG Wai-nga, Viola, Senior Manager (New Territories South) Promotion of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) to the meeting to present the paper.

10. Ms Viola LEUNG briefly presented the paper, and provided the following supplementary information in respect of Annex III:

- (a) The actual number of participants in the "Rehearsal Classes for Finale Performances" held on 13 and 15 March 2025 was 36.
- (b) The arts group had uploaded the music video produced from the "Song Recording and Music Video Shooting" activity to YouTube on 31 March 2025. The video had accumulated 1 700 clicks on the same day. The LCSD had also shared the relevant link to Members via email.
- (c) A total of 880 people attended the two "Finale Performances" held on 16 March 2025.
- (d) The 20 activities held under the "18dART - Islands Community Arts Scheme" in 2024-25 were estimated to have attracted a total of 3 121 participants.

(Post-meeting note: The actual number of participants in the 20 activities held in 2024-25 was 3 114.)

(ii) Extension Activities of Public Libraries
(CICRC Paper No. 7/2025)

11. The Chairman drew Members' attention to the CICRC Paper No. 7/2025, and welcomed Ms CHUNG Chi-yuen, Candy, Senior Librarian (Islands) (Acting) of the LCSD to the meeting to present the paper.

12. Ms Candy CHUNG briefly presented the paper.

(iii) Recreation and Sports Activities

(CICRC Paper No. 8/2025)

13. The Chairman drew Members' attention to the CICRC Paper No. 8/2025, and welcomed Ms CHU Lai-ye, Agnes, Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Islands of the LCSD to the meeting to present the paper.

14. Ms Agnes CHU briefly presented the paper.

15. Members expressed their views as follows:

- (a) The LCSD should arrange for participants of the “Advanced A Cappella Classes” to form a choir and perform at the Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council Tung Chung Integrated Services Centre or venues managed by the LCSD. In addition, Members asked the Department to consider organising activities in locations outside Tung Chung (such as Peng Chau).
- (b) Members enquired whether the actual number of participants under the scheme included the number of clicks of the music video, and whether the actual number of participants listed in Annex III referred to the number of enrolments for the training classes or workshops. In addition, Members requested the Department to provide the average attendance rate for each session of the activities.
- (c) Performing arts encompassed a wide range of disciplines, such as drawing and painting, dance, and musical instrument performance. However, the activities under the scheme mainly focused on music. Therefore, the Department should consider organising a more diverse range of performing arts activities.

16. Ms Viola LEUNG gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) The participants of the scheme had performed at the “Showcase Concert” and the “Finale Performances”. She also noted Members' views on the activity venues and would relay their views to the relevant section(s).
- (b) The actual number of participants under the scheme included the number of clicks of the music video. In addition, the “Mini Concert” organised by the arts group allowed the public to experience the joy of a cappella singing. After the concert, audience or members of the public who intended to learn a cappella singing could enrol in the “A Cappella Classes”, each of which offered around 20 places. Apart from the “A Cappella Classes”, the arts group also organised “Physical Theatre Workshops” and “Beatbox Workshops” to enable participants to acquire various techniques related to a cappella performance.

(c) According to a study commissioned by the LCSD and conducted by The Chinese University of Hong Kong on the most preferred forms of performing arts among residents in various districts, music was identified as the most favourite form of performing arts among residents of the Islands District. Therefore, the Department had launched the “18dART Community Arts Scheme: A Cappella Project” in the Islands District to provide music-related activities for the local residents. She also pointed out that drawing and painting were forms of visual arts rather than performing arts.

17. Members expressed their views as follows:

(a) As the LCSD had been organising “A Cappella Classes” since 2019, it was believed that a considerable number of participants had completed the courses over the years. In light of this, Members asked the Department to provide more performance opportunities for these individuals. In this regard, the Department should engage the graduates of the “Advanced A Cappella Classes” as assistant instructors to the arts groups, and establish an a cappella choir in the Islands District to carry forward the vision of the project and strengthen participants’ sense of belonging to the community. In addition, Members understood that the Department had also organised “A Cappella” projects in other districts, such as the Kwai Tsing District. Therefore, the Department should arrange cross-district exchanges and collaborations for participants from different districts to broaden their horizons.

(b) Members asked the Department to provide the report of the aforementioned study so that they could understand the details of the study.

(c) The Department should not have included the number of clicks in the actual participant count. Members also asked the Department to present the figures separately in order to reflect the actual participation in the activities.

18. Ms Viola LEUNG gave a consolidated response as follows:

(a) The Department began rolling out the “18dART - Community Arts Scheme” and the “Musical Theatre Scheme” in the Islands District since 2019-20. From 2024-25 onwards, the arts group “Yat Po Singers” began to organise the “A Cappella” project in the district. The group would continue to organise the project in 2025-26, with a view to deepening residents’ understanding of a cappella singing through sustainable and enriching activities. The Department would continue to gather feedback from participants and local residents, and review and adjust the content of the project as appropriate. She also noted Members’ views and would relay them to the relevant section(s).

(b) As for Members' comments on the calculation method of the actual number of participants, she undertook to relay them to the relevant section(s).

19. Members considered that the sampling method of the abovementioned study and the range of performing arts genres available for selection by respondents would affect the study's findings. Therefore, Members enquired about the details of the study report. In addition, Members asked whether the techniques taught in the three activities, namely, the "A Cappella Classes", the "Physical Theatre Workshops", and the "Beatbox Workshops", could help enhance participants' standards in the "Finale Performances".

20. Ms Viola LEUNG said that she would provide information on the aforementioned study report after the meeting. She added that a cappella performers, in addition to mastering basic vocal skills, were also required to acquire other skills, such as vocal percussion. Therefore, participants could flexibly apply the techniques taught in the three aforementioned activities to enrich their performances, thereby enhancing their overall standards in the "Finale Performances".

(Post-meeting note: The study report was based on the opinion surveys carried out during the five workshops and four performances held between September 2023 and March 2024. Questionnaires, available in both physical and electronic formats, were completed by the participants and audience members of the activities held in the Islands District, with a total of 139 respondents. The survey would be conducted annually. The questionnaire included options for preferred forms of performing arts, namely, drama, music, dance, Chinese opera, multi-arts and film. Nearly 90% of the respondents selected music as their preferred category.)

21. Members asked whether it was common for participants to take part in all three activities at the same time.

22. Ms Viola LEUNG said that she would provide the relevant supplementary information after the meeting. In addition, as the schedules of the three activities had not overlapped, and some participants might have been interested in all three activities, it was possible that some individuals had taken part in all of them at the same time.

(Post-meeting note: The workshops were designed with the objective of sustaining and deepening learning. Participants could, if they were interested and available, attend different workshops, while some advanced workshops had a selection process in place. In the current year, a small number of participants engaged in more than one activity.)

V. Question on the promotion of the 15th National Games in the Islands District
(CICRC Paper No. 11/2025)

23. The Chairman drew Members' attention to the CICRC Paper No. 11/2025, and welcomed Ms CHU Lai-yeo, Agnes, Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Islands and Ms CHUNG Chi-yuen, Candy, Senior Librarian (Islands) (Acting)

of the LCSD to the meeting to respond to the question.

24. Mr YIP Pui-kei briefly presented the question.
25. Ms Candy CHUNG and Ms Agnes CHU briefly presented the written replies of the LCSD separately.
26. Members hoped that the Department would step up publicity efforts for the 15th National Games of the People's Republic of China (National Games), and suggested that it should collaborate with local stakeholders (such as schools, NGOs and Council Members) to attract greater public attention to the National Games, thereby enhancing public interest in recreation and sports programmes.

27. Ms Agnes CHU gave her response as follows:
 - (a) The Department had distributed promotional materials for the National Games to its respective district leisure services offices. In addition, she would convey Members' views on the publicity efforts to the relevant section(s).
 - (b) The Department had, through the Secretariat, distributed information about the mass participation events of the National Games to Members in February this year. She thanked Members for their assistance in promoting the events, and noted that the events were very suitable for public participation. If there was any new information about the events, she would forward it to Members as soon as possible to facilitate their assistance in promoting the events.

VI. Question on the services of the public swimming pools and beaches in the Islands District
(CICRC Paper No. 12/2025)

28. The Chairman drew Members' attention to the CICRC Paper No. 12/2025, and welcomed Ms CHU Lai-ye, Agnes, Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Islands of the LCSD to the meeting to respond to the question.
29. Mr YIP Pui-kei briefly presented the question.
30. Ms Agnes CHU briefly presented the written reply of the LCSD.
31. Members expressed their views as follows:
 - (a) Members understood that the LCSD encountered certain difficulties in recruiting lifeguards. However, there was strong demand for swimming facilities among residents in the Islands District, and therefore it was necessary to convey their views and expectations to the Department. Due to a shortage of lifeguards, the Department had long been unable to

open both the indoor main pool and the outdoor training pool of the Tung Chung Swimming Pool simultaneously. In this regard, the Department should consider including the Tung Chung Swimming Pool in the programme of outsourcing lifesaving services on a trial basis, followed by redeploying the existing lifeguards at that pool to other swimming pools and beaches in the district.

- (b) The many high-quality beaches in the Islands District were its important tourism resources, which could have attracted a large number of visitors to tie in with the concept of “Tourism is Everywhere” actively promoted by the Government. However, due to a shortage of lifeguards, some of these beaches were unable to provide lifesaving services, resulting in a significant drop in the numbers of visitors. The situation had also severely affected the business of nearby shops, and some had even closed down as a result. In this regard, the Department should deploy lifeguards to be on duty at the beaches in the Islands District during weekends and public holidays, thereby facilitating the use of the facilities by the public and tourists. This proposal would not only help attract more visitors, but also could be in line with the Government’s policy of promoting coastal tourism and “Tourism is Everywhere”.
- (c) It was relatively easier for private swimming pools to recruit lifeguards as their work environment was generally more favourable than that at public beaches. The Department should provide additional allowances to lifeguards on duty at public beaches during weekends and public holidays in order to attract them to work at beaches.

32. The Chairman expressed his views as follows:

- (a) The shortage of lifeguards at public swimming pools and beaches had been a long-standing issue, primarily due to the fact that remuneration packages in the private sector were significantly more attractive than those offered by the Government, making lifeguard recruitment particularly challenging for the latter. In light of this, the LCSD should review and improve the remuneration packages for lifeguards (for example, by providing overtime allowances) in order to alleviate the staffing shortage and meet residents’ demand for swimming facilities.
- (b) In addition, as the Government was vigorously promoting the concept of “Tourism is Everywhere”, and there were also plans to develop tourism in South Lantau, the LCSD and the relevant departments should make good use of the tourism resources in the Islands District to proactively support and align with the related policy direction.

33. Ms Agnes CHU gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) The LCSD proactively adopted various measures to increase and stabilise the supply of lifeguards, including enhancing the flexibility of

the recruitment process and hiring seasonal lifeguards. She noted Members' views on including the Tung Chung Swimming Pool in the programme of outsourcing lifesaving services on a trial basis and undertook to relay the views to the relevant section(s). Additionally, beach lifeguards were required to hold a valid Beach Lifeguard Award issued by the Hong Kong China Life Saving Society. Since some of the pool lifeguards were only possessed of the Pool Lifeguard Award qualification, they could not be redeployed to serve at beaches.

- (b) The Department would review lifeguard manpower resources at beaches based on actual operational needs, taking into account factors such as the number of users. Over the past five financial years, the average annual usage rate of Hung Shing Yeh Beach had been higher than that of Lo So Shing Beach. Therefore, the Department would accord priority to deploying lifeguards to Hung Shing Yeh Beach. Furthermore, in view of limited resources, the Department would also consider opening beaches that had more facilities nearby, such as the Pui O Beach, which adjoined the Pui O Campsite.
- (c) The Department would provide overtime allowances for lifeguards where practicable. In addition, as beaches in the Islands District were relatively remote, entailing longer commuting times as compared to other districts, which would also affect the overall manpower deployment arrangements.

VII. Any Other Business

34. No further business was raised by Members.

VIII. Date of Next Meeting

35. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m. The next meeting would be held at 10 a.m. on 3 June 2025 (Tuesday).

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