

(Translation)

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

Date : 3 June 2025 (Tuesday)

Time : 10:00 a.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 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

Mr NG Tak-wai

Attendance by Invitation

Ms LAM Shuk-yeo, Anna

Regional Officer/Hong Kong and Islands,
Independent Commission Against Corruption
Community Relations Officer/Hong Kong West and
Islands Office, Independent Commission Against Corruption

Ms LU Man-ting, Mandy

In Attendance

Ms AU YUENG Wing-sum, Livia

Assistant District Officer (Islands) 2, Islands District Office
Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Islands,
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Ms CHU Lai-yeo, Agnes

Ms CHUNG Chi-yuen, Candy	Senior Librarian (Islands) (Acting), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms LEUNG Wai-nga, Viola	Senior Manager (New Territories South) Promotion, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms HO Yee-hung	Senior School Development Officer (Wanchai & Islands), Education Bureau

Secretary

Ms CHAN Ying-tung, Shadow Executive Officer (District Council)1, Islands District Office

Absent with Apology

Mr YU Hon-kwan, MH, JP
Ms XIANG Ming-han

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Welcoming Remarks

The Chairman welcomed representatives of government departments and Members to the meeting.

2. The Committee agreed to accept the applications for absence from the meeting submitted by Mr YU Hon-kwan and Ms XIANG Ming-han in accordance with the Islands District Council Standing Orders.

I. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 8 April 2025

3. 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. Independent Commission Against Corruption Regional Office (Hong Kong West/Islands) – Anti-corruption Strategies 2025/26
(CICRC Paper No. 13/2025)

4. The Chairman asked Members to refer to CICRC Paper No. 13/2025, and welcomed the guests who attended the meeting to elaborate on the paper: Ms LAM Shuk-yeo, Anna, Regional Officer/Hong Kong and Islands and Ms LU Man-ting, Mandy, Community Relations Officer/Hong Kong West and Islands Office of the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC).

5. Ms Anna LAM briefly presented the paper, and said that there had been a rising trend in scams involving impersonation of ICAC officers recently. Scammers

falsely claimed that victims were under ICAC investigation due to involvement in criminal cases and demanded large sums of money for a so-called “priority fund review”. In this regard, she emphasised that the ICAC would never ask members of the public to open bank accounts, transfer money or provide funds in any way for fund verification or investigation purposes. She urged the public to stay vigilant and report any suspicious situations to the ICAC immediately.

6. Members noted the content of the paper.

III. Question on the population growth of school-age children in Tung Chung
(CICRC Paper No. 14/2025)

7. The Chairman asked Members to refer to CICRC Paper No. 14/2025, and welcomed the guest who attended the meeting to respond to the question: Ms HO Yee-hung, Senior School Development Officer (Wanchai & Islands) of the Education Bureau (EDB).

8. Mr YIP Pui-kei briefly presented the question.

9. Ms HO Yee-hung gave her response as follows:

- (a) Regarding the first question, the EDB did not have relevant data. Based on the latest projections of school place supply and demand, as well as the current situation of public sector school places, the EDB expected that the supply of public sector primary and secondary school places in the Islands District (including Tung Chung) would be sufficient to meet the demand for the 2025/26 to 2029/30 school years. Additionally, she said that there was currently an ample supply of kindergarten places in the Islands District (including Tung Chung). In planning large-scale residential developments, the Government reserved space for kindergartens in accordance with the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines, after taking into account the planned population and the needs for community service, so as to align with the population growth and development of large-scale residential developments and to meet the society’s demand for education services. The Government had reserved space in Cheung Tung Estate and Chun Tung Estate for the construction of a 11-classroom kindergarten and a 12-classroom kindergarten respectively. The EDB would maintain close liaison with schools in the district and the Housing Department (HD), taking appropriate measures to ensure sufficient public sector school places for school-age children while ensuring the prudent use of public funds. The EDB had requested the HD to provide data on new residents (e.g. the number and distribution of school-age children) to better understand the demand for school places in Tung Chung. The HD had indicated that it would provide the relevant data to the EDB after new residents confirmed acceptance of their allocated units. The EDB would continue to monitor the actual school enrollment situation and education policies, review

school construction plans in Tung Chung, and initiate relevant projects in a timely manner to ensure an adequate supply of school places. With the commencement of operations of an aided primary school and an aided secondary school in Area 89, Tung Chung, the supply of public sector school places in Tung Chung would become even more sufficient.

(b) Regarding the second question, based on the latest projections of school place supply and demand, as well as the current situation of public sector school places, the EDB expected that the supply of public sector primary and secondary school places in the Islands District (including Tung Chung) would be sufficient to meet the demand arising from the completion of large-scale residential developments in the district over the next five years. The EDB had been closely monitoring the supply and demand of public sector school places in various districts to assess changes in demand and supply of such places. If the demand for school places in Tung Chung became significant, the EDB would take appropriate measures to ensure sufficient public sector school places for school-age children. In the past, with the completion of new housing estates in Tung Chung, the EDB had discussed with school principals in the district the feasibility of utilising vacant classrooms to address the increase in student numbers. Additionally, after issuing letters on class structures and staffing establishments, the EDB had increased the number of classes at specific levels in some schools to meet the demand for school places in Tung Chung. In response to the projected population increase in the Tung Chung New Town Extension (TCNTE), the EDB had obtained funding approval from the Legislative Council's Finance Committee in May 2025 to construct a primary school with 30 classrooms in Area 89 (Northern Side), Tung Chung to meet the future primary school place demand in the TCNTE. The Architectural Services Department had commenced the school's construction work, which was expected to be completed within three and a half years. The EDB had also initiated preliminary work for the construction of an aided secondary school in Area 89, Tung Chung. As this school construction project was currently in the internal approval stage, the specific construction timeline would depend on factors such as tendering results, internal approval progress, progress of technical works, and whether funding could be secured from the Legislative Council for the project.

(c) Regarding the third question, under the existing mechanism, if students needed to arrange school transfer to continue their studies due to relocation to other districts, parents could apply for school places for their children at the preferred schools and seek assistance from the EDB. Upon the intake of new housing estates, the EDB would distribute application forms of school transfer through the HD to the relevant households, provide the parents concerned with information on schools with vacancies in the district, or provide placement services according to the needs of parents. The EDB would also publish information on kindergarten place vacancies in various districts through its website and

Regional Education Offices for parents' reference. In addition, the EDB would share information about schools in the Islands District and the contact information of the EDB with non-governmental organisations in the district, so as to enable them to provide assistance for residents in need.

10. Members expressed their views as follows:

- (a) Although the EDB expected that the public sector primary and secondary school places in the Islands District would be sufficient to meet future demand, many parents in the district had reported that their children were unable to attend schools in their home district. Members considered that there was a discrepancy between the EDB's estimation and the actual situation, and therefore asked how the EDB came up with those projected figures. Although the District Council had discussed this issue for many times, the EDB had not made specific responses. As such, Members requested that the EDB provide a more concrete and precise response to the question.
- (b) Given that new housing estates were gradually ready for intake after the start of the school year, many parents about to move in were troubled by the need to apply for school transfers for their children after the school year had begun. In addition to the financial burden of purchasing new uniforms and textbooks, students faced significant challenges in adapting to a new learning environment and making new friends. Therefore, Members asked whether the EDB would establish a coordination mechanism to provide appropriate support for transferring students. Furthermore, since accepting new students or increasing the number of classes involved complex procedures, Members requested that the EDB simplify these procedures to enable schools to handle related matters more efficiently.
- (c) Members requested that the EDB provide information on schools in the Islands District and contact information of the EDB to the ward offices of local District Council members, so that they could assist residents in need.
- (d) As residents of Cheung Tung Estate had been allocated units in advance last week, Members requested that the EDB strengthen communication with the HD to promptly obtain data on new residents and formulate corresponding plans.
- (e) At the meeting on 8 October 2024, the EDB had stated that due to the fiscal deficit of the Government, all departments had to carefully review the prioritisation of their public works projects. However, given the rapid population growth in Tung Chung, Members considered that the EDB needed to proactively develop a long-term school construction plan. Additionally, Members said that there were still vacant classrooms

and surplus places in Tung Chung's secondary schools, but the EDB had not made corresponding plans or arrangements in response to the anticipated population growth in Tung Chung.

11. Ms HO Yee-hung gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) As the EDB projected the school-age population based on District Council boundaries, it did not maintain specific projections for Tung Chung. In the 2024/25 school year, the number of kindergarten places and pupils in the Islands District stood at approximately 4 600 and 3 400 respectively. As for public sector and aided primary schools in the Islands District, there were about 6 700 places, with approximately 6 100 students. As for secondary schools, public sector and aided schools in the Islands District offered around 6 400 places, with approximately 5 300 students. Based on the above data, the school places in the Islands District were sufficient to meet the short-term demand in the district.
- (b) It was expected that the intake of the relevant new housing estates would gradually commence after the start of the new school year (i.e. the 2025/26 school year), and parents would need to consider when to arrange school transfers for their children based on the actual intake dates.
- (c) After the meeting, the EDB would distribute information about schools in the Islands District and the contact information of the EDB to Members through the Secretariat, so that Members could assist residents in need.

(Post-meeting note: The above information was forwarded to Members for reference on 4 June 2025.)

- (d) The HD had not yet provided the EDB with data on new residents.
- (e) The EDB would continue to closely monitor the supply and demand of school places in Tung Chung, maintain close liaison with schools in the district, and take appropriate measures. Additionally, the EDB had reserved space in the Tung Chung New Development Area for the construction of kindergartens, primary schools and secondary schools. As previously noted, the EDB had initiated preliminary work for the construction of an aided secondary school in Area 89, Tung Chung. The progress of this project was subject to various factors, and the EDB was currently unable to provide a specific development timeline.

12. Members expressed their views as follows:

- (a) The population of Tung Chung would increase from approximately 140 000 at present to 300 000 in the coming six years. In this regard,

Members considered that the EDB had to formulate a long-term plan to ensure sufficient facilities to meet the needs of residents. Taking the example of the intake for Ying Tung Estate and Mun Tung Estate in 2018, the EDB had not increased school places in the district in advance, resulting in the newly moved in school-age children being unable to attend schools in their home district. Currently, the enrollment rate in Tung Chung schools was near saturation, and the proposed primary school would not be completed until three and a half years later. Members requested that the EDB learn from past experiences, make effective use of the existing vacant classrooms and surplus school places to increase the number of places in the district, and prepare in advance to ensure that school-age children who newly moved in could attend schools in their home district.

- (b) Tung Chung and the outlying islands (including Cheung Chau, Lamma Island and Peng Chau) all fell under the Islands District. Members considered that the EDB's estimation of school places and student numbers for the entire Islands District did not fully reflect the actual supply and demand situation for school places in Tung Chung. Therefore, Members requested that the EDB separately estimate the school places and student numbers for Tung Chung and the outlying islands to adjust the supply of school places based on the actual situation.
- (c) Many parents from the outlying islands chose schools on Hong Kong Island to provide their children with better educational opportunities. Members said that students from the outlying islands could travel directly to Hong Kong Island by ferry and therefore considered that the EDB should assign outlying island students to schools on Hong Kong Island.
- (d) Members said that the primary school in Peng Chau still had a significant number of surplus school places, yet 80 school-age primary students from Peng Chau were assigned to SKH Wei Lun Primary School, which was located in Discovery Bay. As a result, the primary school in Peng Chau currently only had 100 students. Members were puzzled as to why SKH Wei Lun Primary School was part of school net of the Central and Western District, and requested that the EDB review the relevant system to ensure that the primary school in Peng Chau was not at risk of closure due to insufficient enrollment.
- (e) To further discuss the above issues, Members suggested that the Secretariat arrange a follow-up meeting.

13. Ms HO Yee-hung gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) The Primary One Admission System basically adopted the principle of vicinity in allocating school places. Under the current Secondary School Places Allocation mechanism, Primary 6 students participating in the

allocation process could, during the Discretionary Place Admission stage and Part A “Unrestricted School Choices” of the Central Allocation stage, select secondary schools from any school net without geographical restrictions. This arrangement allowed for greater flexibility and better accommodated the diverse educational needs of students.

- (b) Currently, there were still vacancies in kindergartens, primary schools and secondary schools in Tung Chung.
- (c) The issue of the school net for SKH Wei Lun Primary School was not an agenda item for this meeting, but she would relay Members’ views to the relevant section.
- (d) The EDB had provided information on schools in the Islands District (including Tung Chung) to residents who were about to move in through the HD, and would later distribute school transfer application forms to residents of the new housing estates through the HD.

14. Members expressed their views as follows:

- (a) Members estimated that the number of school-age children in the district would increase by approximately 2 000 upon completion of intake for a new housing estate. With the gradual intake for the new housing estates in Tung Chung, Members were concerned that if the EDB did not address and resolve this issue, it might exacerbate the shortage of school places in the future. Based on the above estimate, even utilising all vacant classrooms and surplus school places in the district would not be sufficient to accommodate the increased population of school-age children. Therefore, Members considered that the EDB had to separately estimate school places for Tung Chung and the outlying islands to accurately assess the actual situation. In addition, Members suggested that the EDB establish a coordination mechanism and develop a timeline to assist parents and schools in preparing for school transfers.
- (b) Members understood that the principle of vicinity in allocating school places was not applicable to secondary schools. However, Members noted that many students who wished to study in their home district were assigned to schools outside the district, while students from outside the district could apply to study in Tung Chung’s secondary schools. Members pointed out that cross-district schooling involved lengthy commuting times and created a transportation burden. Therefore, Members suggested that the EDB discuss with school principals in the district to understand the actual enrollment situation and the number of remaining school places, and handle school transfer arrangements more flexibly.
- (c) In addition to public housing estates, Tung Chung had seen many private

housing developments completed in recent years. Furthermore, the Government was actively attracting overseas talent to Hong Kong. Therefore, Members considered that the EDB should not rely solely on population data provided by the HD regarding public housing estates to plan future education initiatives.

- (d) Members enquired about the EDB's procedures for increasing the number of classes.

15. Ms HO Yee-hung gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) School-based management granted schools greater autonomy and flexibility, allowing them to admit transfer students based on their own mechanisms.
- (b) The EDB equally valued residents' views and had to ensure the prudent use of public funds. Currently, there were still vacancies in secondary schools, primary schools and kindergartens in Tung Chung.
- (c) The number of public sector primary school students in Tung Chung was expected to increase from approximately 4 600 in the 2024/25 school year to about 6 200 in the 2029/30 school year. Tung Chung currently had seven aided primary schools, providing at least 5 400 places. The proposed new primary school would add at least 750 places, bringing the total number of public sector primary school places in Tung Chung to approximately 6 200, which was sufficient to meet future demand for school places.
- (d) There were currently seven public sector and Direct Subsidy Scheme secondary schools in Tung Chung. In the 2024/25 school year, these seven secondary schools could provide at least 5 300 places, with approximately 4 800 secondary school students in Tung Chung. Currently, public sector secondary school places were planned based on the overall situation in Hong Kong, and she would relay Members' views to the relevant section.
- (e) The EDB would continue to closely monitor the supply and demand of school places in Tung Chung and maintain close liaison with the HD.
- (f) The EDB would take appropriate measures to ensure sufficient public sector school places for school-age children and would maintain close liaison with school principals in the district to explore the feasibility of making the best use of vacant classrooms.

16. The Chairman requested that the Secretariat arrange a follow-up meeting after the current meeting to further discuss the captioned matters.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat arranged a follow-up meeting among Members and

representatives from the EDB and the HD on 16 July 2025.)

IV. Any Other Business

17. No further issues were raised by Members.

V. Date of Next Meeting

18. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m. The next meeting would be held at 2:30 p.m. on 5 August 2025 (Tuesday).

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