(Translation)

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

Date : 20 April 2026 (Monday)
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
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 Member
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
Ms AU Pui-yan, Esther	Social Work Officer (Planning & Coordinating) (Central Western, Southern and Islands)1, 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

Mr IP Cheuk-man, Ryerson	Assistant District Officer (Islands)2, Islands District Office
Ms CHU Lai-yee, Agnes	Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Islands, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms CHUNG Chi-yuen, Candy	Senior Librarian (Islands), 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

Ms XIANG Ming-han

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(ii) Annual Community Involvement Programme Plan of the Islands District Office in 2026/27 (April 2026 to March 2027)
(CICRC Paper No. 12/2026)

4. The Chairman asked Members to refer to CICRC Paper Nos. 11/2026 and 12/2026, 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 question.

5. Members noted the content of the papers.

III. Social Welfare Department Central Western, Southern and Islands District Social Welfare Office 2026-27 Annual Work Plan
(CICRC Paper No. 10/2026)

6. The Chairman asked Members to refer to CICRC Paper No. 10/2026, and welcomed Ms CHOW Siu-fung, Cora, Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Central Western, Southern and Islands)2 and Ms AU Pui-yan, Esther, Social Work Officer (Planning & Coordinating) (Central Western, Southern and Islands)1 of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) to the meeting to elaborate on the paper.

7. Ms Cora CHOW briefly presented the paper.

8. Members expressed their views as follows:

(a) It was estimated that 35 000 to 37 000 people would move into the Tung Chung New Town this year. As a result, the demand for welfare services would become even more pressing. In this regard, Members requested the SWD to provide details regarding item (4)(iii) in paragraph 3 of the captioned paper, which concerned the promotion of collaboration among different service units in the area, such as the number of service units involved and the timetable for their commencement of services.

(b) Following the adjustment of transport fare concessions to "$2 Flat Rate or 80 Per cent Off" under the $2 Scheme, the cost of living for the elderly had risen. In this regard, Members enquired what mitigation measures the SWD had in place. Furthermore, the procedures for applying for medical fee waivers were cumbersome, as applicants must meet the eligibility criteria set by the Hospital Authority (HA) and pass the SWD's eligibility assessment. In view of this, the SWD and the HA should make reference to the arrangements of other government subsidy schemes (such as the School Textbook Assistance Scheme, Working Family Allowance Scheme, and Old Age Living Allowance) to streamline the relevant application procedures.

9. Ms Cora CHOW said that she would respond to Members' questions regarding welfare facilities in Tung Chung during the discussion of the next agenda item. As for applications for medical fee waivers and the associated procedures, she pointed out that the HA had implemented the fees and charges reform for public healthcare on 1 January 2026. It was understood that the HA had concurrently introduced a series of measures to strengthen protection for patients, including enhancing the existing medical fee waiving mechanism and lowering the application threshold. For example, recipients of the Old Age Living Allowance who were aged 65 or above but 74 or below might submit proof of receipt of the allowance to be exempted from submitting the relevant financial documents for assessment.

(Post-meeting notes:

- The Health Bureau's implementation of the fees and charges reform for public healthcare aimed to, through reforming the subsidisation structure, guide the public to make optimal use of healthcare resources, reduce wastage, and enhance healthcare protection for the four categories of "poor, acute, serious, critical" patients, thereby enhancing the sustainability of the public healthcare system and its role as a universal safety net. These measures came into effect on 1 January 2026. The HA had concurrently expanded its medical fee waiver mechanism to strengthen protection for patients with financial difficulties and those who required frequent medical services.
- The HA's medical fee waiver mechanism aimed to provide assistance to patients with financial difficulties and healthcare needs, ensuring they were not denied medical care due to lack of means. The HA established the Designated Financial Assessment Team for Waiver Application (designated team) in November 2025. The team was deployed across the seven hospital clusters to assist in triaging and processing the medical fee waiver applications. The Medical Social Services Units of public hospitals and clinics or the Integrated Family Service Centres under the SWD would also assist the HA in processing such applications submitted by members of the public.
- Generally speaking, patients with financial difficulties who needed to apply for medical fee waivers only needed to pass the HA's financial assessment.
- For patients who did not meet the financial criteria set by the HA but faced special difficulties, medical social workers/social workers might also take non-financial factors into account and exercise discretion on a case-by-case basis.
- To ensure that patients with financial difficulties and in need of medical care were aware of the medical fee waiver mechanism, the SWD's Central Western, Southern and Islands District Social Welfare Office had all along encouraged welfare service units in the area, such as District Elderly Community Centres and Neighbourhood Elderly Centres, to assist in publicity and promotion, so that residents could better understand the fees and charges reform for public healthcare and the medical fee waiver mechanism. The SWD would continue to provide assistance and support in this regard.)

10. Members expressed their views as follows:

(a) The "$2 Flat Rate or 80 Per cent Off" arrangement had a particularly significant impact on residents of the Islands District. Most public transport fares in the district were over $10. The new arrangement greatly increased transport expenses for the elderly persons, thus indirectly discouraging them from travelling. Furthermore, as the SWD grouped the Islands, Central and Western, and Southern Districts into a single geographical service boundary, some elderly residents of the Islands District were required to travel to other districts to obtain services. In this regard, the SWD should optimise the planning of welfare services in the Islands District to alleviate the transport costs borne by the elderly persons in the district.

(b) Although new service centres in the district would be completed progressively, these facilities were not expected to be fully operational until one to two years afterwards, resulting in a shortage of suitable venues for non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to provide services to residents in the district. As such, Members urged the SWD to take the lead in exploring the feasibility of converting some existing land for short- to medium-term welfare purposes with other departments.

(c) Given that new residents in the district were generally younger, the SWD should strengthen support measures for young families, such as occasional child care service and home-based child care service.

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

(a) The SWD noted Members' views.

(b) With regard to child care services, the Government had been subsidising NGOs in offering a diverse range of day care services for children, in order to support parents who were temporarily unable to look after their children due to work or other reasons. These included:

(i) full-day Child Care Centre service for children aged from birth to under three;
(ii) the district-based and flexible Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project;
(iii) the After School Care Programme for Pre-primary Children, with the Po Leung Kuk After School Care Centre for Pre-primary Children (Tung Chung) in Yat Tung Estate commencing operations in Tung Chung since August 2025;
(iv) the After School Care Programme for Primary School Student; and
(v) the School-based After School Care Service for primary school students.

There were also several service units in the Tung Chung providing occasional child care and extended hours services to meet the needs of young families.

(Post-meeting notes:

- The Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities (the $2 Scheme) was formulated by the Labour and Welfare Bureau.
- The SWD's District Social Welfare Offices would encourage the relevant service units to provide welfare services with facilitation measures, such as launching outreach services and home visits, as well as identifying Caring Shops in the districts to offer discounts to carers of elderly persons and caregivers.
- In general, the SWD planned welfare services in accordance with the planning standards and guidelines for welfare facilities set out in the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines. For example, under the guidelines, a District Elderly Community Centre was established at Yat Tung Estate in Tung Chung, while Neighbourhood Elderly Centres were established at Fu Tung Estate and Ying Tung Estate to facilitate elderly persons' participation in centre activities. Therefore, in general, the Islands District, the Central and Western District and the Southern District were not regarded as a single district for welfare planning purposes. Only a small number of welfare services had wider geographical service boundaries due to their nature.
- At present, the welfare facilities serving residents of Tung Chung covered a range of service areas, providing comprehensive welfare services for families, children, young people, elderly persons and persons with disabilities of all ages in the area, with the majority of service units located in Tung Chung.
- The SWD would invite NGOs to submit proposals for the provision of subvented services so that renovation works for the relevant welfare premises could commence at an early stage and welfare services could be provided as soon as possible. Meanwhile, NGOs would set out in their proposals for the provision of subvented services plans for providing services to new residents prior to securing permanent premises, such as by borrowing space from neighbouring facilities or providing outreach services, so as to ensure timely provision of welfare services to residents.
- In response to Members' suggestion on exploring the feasibility of utilising vacant flats of the Housing Department (HD), vacant school premises or existing land resources for short- to medium-term welfare purposes, the SWD would like to take this opportunity to clarify that, for subvented service units that did not yet have permanent premises, the Department had been considering the feasibility of allowing NGOs to rent vacant non-domestic premises of the HD, private premises, and vacant school premises, etc. to operate welfare services during the transitional period on a case-by-case basis. In the process, the following factors relating to temporary premises needed to

be taken into consideration:

(i) whether the land use and building use permitted the premises to be used as welfare facilities;
(ii) the period for which the premises might be used as welfare facilities;
(iii) whether they met the requirements for individual welfare facilities in terms of building regulations, fire safety, barrier-free access, and licensing, etc.;
(iv) whether they met the floor area requirements for the relevant welfare facilities;
(v) whether their locations were convenient for the service users of the welfare facilities and the ease of access;
(vi) the advice from all relevant departments on site constraints, development parameters and limitations (including environmental issues such as noise and air quality); and
(vii) the costs of and time required for the establishment of the facilities.

- The HD regularly provided the SWD with an updated list of vacant public housing non-domestic premises that were available for welfare services lettings to NGOs. The aforementioned list, application procedures and related matters were available on both the HD's webpage (https://www.housingauthority.gov.hk/en/commercial-properties/leasing-information/welfare-lettings/index.html) and the SWD's webpage (https://www.swd.gov.hk/en/ngo/projectpla/vacantpubl/), for reference by NGOs and their consideration for application.
- In addition, the list of vacant school premises on government land under the management of the Lands Department (LandsD) that were available for application by NGOs for short-term use, as well as the application procedures and related matters, were available on the relevant webpage of the LandsD (https://www.landsd.gov.hk/en/land-mgt-enforce/short-term-tenancy.html). The aforementioned SWD webpage also contained a link to the LandsD's webpage for reference by NGOs and their consideration for application.)

IV. Question on the strengthening of community service facilities in Tung Chung (CICRC Paper No. 14/2026)

12. The Chairman asked Members to refer to CICRC Paper No. 14/2026, and welcomed Ms CHOW Siu-fung, Cora, Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Central Western, Southern and Islands)2 and Ms AU Pui-yan, Esther, Social Work Officer (Planning & Coordinating) (Central Western, Southern and Islands)1 of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) to the meeting to respond to the question.

13. Ms LAU Suk-han briefly presented the question.

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

(a) The SWD planned to establish the following facilities at Chun Tung Estate in Tung Chung Area 100:

(i) a Neighbourhood Elderly Centre (NEC);
(ii) a Day Care Centre for the Elderly (DE);
(iii) an Integrated Community Centre for Mental Wellness (ICCMW); and
(iv) an Integrated Children and Youth Services Centre (ICYSC).

The aforementioned ICCMW would be operated by St. James' Settlement (SJS) under the name "Wellness Islands". As the premises at Chun Tung Estate had not yet been handed over, in order to provide mental health support services to residents in the area as soon as possible, the SWD collaborated with the operating non-governmental organisation (NGO), which had set up a temporary office on the ground floor of 28 Ma Wan New Village, Tung Chung located within the centre's service area. The office had commenced operations on 1 March 2026, with its initial services primarily delivered through outreach activities. The Department would invite NGOs interested in operating the NEC and the DE to submit proposals for the provision of subvented services and establish the ICYSC through service reprovisioning. The Department expected that the aforementioned welfare facilities would come into service successively in 2027 and 2028.

(b) The service targets and service contents of the aforementioned welfare facilities were as follows:

(i) The NEC provided a range of community care and related welfare services to residents in the area aged 60 or above and their carers, thereby building a community support network.
(ii) The DE provided day care service, rehabilitation exercises and social activities for frail elderly persons (including those with cognitive impairment) aged 60 or above living in the community who were assessed and recommended for Community Care Services or Residential Care Services under the Standardised Care Need Assessment Mechanism for Elderly Services.
(iii) The ICCMW provided one-stop, district-based community mental health support services ranging from prevention to risk management for persons in mental recovery and those with mental health needs aged 15 or above, secondary school students, their families and carers, as well as residents in the area.
(iv) The ICYSC provided diverse and comprehensive services for children and young people aged 6 to 24 in the area, including professional guidance and counselling, support programmes, developmental and socialisation programmes, community

engagement and collaboration programmes, as well as referrals for other services and resources, in order to cater for their diverse needs.

(c) During the transitional period prior to the commissioning of the aforementioned welfare facilities, new residents of Chun Tung Estate would be able to access appropriate support through other relevant service units in the area. In addition, the SWD had allocated resources to the nearby Integrated Services Centre (ISC) for recruiting social workers to provide family services for the new residents. Furthermore, the Department had reserved space in Tung Chung Area 117 for the establishment of an Integrated Family Service Centre.

(d) The SWD planned to establish the following facilities at the Joint-user Complex in Tung Chung Area 107:

(i) a sub-base of the ISC;
(ii) a Child Care Centre (CCC);
(iii) a residential care home for the elderly (RCHE) with a day care unit (DCU);
(iv) a District Support Centre for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) (DSC);
(v) a Parents/Relatives Resource Centre (PRC); and
(vi) an Office Base of On-site Pre-school Rehabilitation Services (OPRS).

The SWD would invite NGOs to submit proposals for the provision of subvented services in relation to the operation of the CCC and the RCHE with a DCU in a timely manner, with a view to selecting suitable NGOs to operate the service units. The dates of commissioning of the facilities concerned would depend on the handover schedules, as well as the progress of renovation works and licence applications (where applicable). In addition, the Department would establish (iv) the DSC, (v) the PRC and (vi) the Office Base of OPRS through service reprovisioning. The above-mentioned facilities were expected to commence operations within 9 to 12 months after the handover of the premises. If the service units needed to apply for relevant licences, the preparation period might need to be extended to 20 months.

(e) The service targets and service contents of the welfare facilities mentioned in (d) above were as follows:

(i) The sub-base of the ISC provided comprehensive, holistic and one-stop services to all residents in the area.
(ii) The CCC provided extended day care service for children aged from birth to under three in the area, as well as care service for children whose parents were temporarily unable to look after

them due to work or other reasons.

(iii) The RCHE with a DCU provided services to elderly persons aged 65 or above living in the community who were assessed and recommended for relevant services under the Standardised Care Need Assessment Mechanism for Elderly Services.

(iv) The DSC provided one-stop services and support to PWDs in the area, as well as their families and carers.

(v) The PRC provided professional advice and support to parents, relatives and carers of PWDs in the area.

(vi) The Office Base of OPRS provided on-site training and classroom instruction for pre-school children aged six or below in the area who were enrolled in kindergartens and kindergarten-cum-child care centres receiving OPRS and who had been assessed as having special needs.

(f) In light of the extension of the Tung Chung New Town, the SWD has taken a number of factors into account during the planning stage, including the planning standards and guidelines for welfare facilities set out in the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines (HKPSG), such as land areas, site locations, and transport facilities.

(Post-meeting notes:

- With regard to identifying suitable sites for welfare facilities, the Government had all along adopted a multi-pronged approach to identify suitable sites for different types of welfare facilities.
- In the 2020 Policy Address, the Chief Executive had announced that the Hong Kong Housing Authority and the Hong Kong Housing Society would reserve premises equivalent to about 5% of the gross floor area in future suitable public housing development projects for welfare use, on the premise that the public housing supply and other ancillary facilities would not be affected.
- In light of the development of the Tung Chung New Town Extension, the SWD had taken a number of factors into account during the planning stage several years ago, including:

  (i) the planning standards and guidelines for welfare facilities set out in the HKPSG;
  (ii) the demand within the area;
  (iii) the overall demand for welfare services;
  (iv) the floor area requirements for different welfare facilities;
  (v) the location of the sites and the ease of access; and
  (vi) the advice from all relevant departments on site constraints, development parameters and limitations (including environmental issues such as noise and air quality), in order to formulate appropriate proposals for welfare facilities.

- For subvented service units that did not yet have permanent premises,

the SWD had been considering the feasibility of allowing NGOs to rent vacant non-domestic premises of the Housing Department (HD), private premises, and vacant school premises, etc. to operate welfare services during the transitional period on a case-by-case basis. In the process, the following factors relating to temporary premises needed to be taken into consideration:

(i) whether the land use and building use permitted the premises to be used as welfare facilities;
(ii) the period for which the premises might be used as welfare facilities;
(iii) whether they met the requirements for individual welfare facilities in terms of building regulations, fire safety, barrier-free access, and licensing, etc.;
(iv) whether they met the floor area requirements for the relevant welfare facilities;
(v) whether their locations were convenient for the service users of the welfare facilities and the ease of access;
(vi) the advice from all relevant departments on site constraints, development parameters and limitations (including environmental issues such as noise and air quality); and
(vii) the costs of and time required for the establishment of the facilities.

- The HD regularly provided the SWD with an updated list of vacant public housing non-domestic premises that were available for welfare services lettings to NGOs. The aforementioned list, application procedures and related matters were available on both the HD's webpage (https://www.housingauthority.gov.hk/en/commercial-properties/leasing-information/welfare-lettings/index.html) and the SWD's webpage (https://www.swd.gov.hk/en/ngo/projectpla/vacantpubl/), for reference by NGOs and their consideration for application.
- In addition, the list of vacant school premises on government land under the management of the Lands Department (LandsD) that were available for application by NGOs for short-term use, as well as the application procedures and related matters, were available on the relevant webpage of the LandsD (https://www.landsd.gov.hk/en/land-mgt-enforce/short-term-tenancy.html). The aforementioned SWD webpage also contained a link to the LandsD's webpage for reference by NGOs and their consideration for application.)

(g) The SWD would invite NGOs to submit proposals for the provision of subvented services so that renovation works for the relevant welfare premises could commence at an early stage and welfare services could be provided as soon as possible. Meanwhile, NGOs would set out in their proposals for the provision of subvented services plans for providing services to new residents prior to securing permanent

premises, such as by borrowing space from neighbouring facilities or providing outreach services, so as to ensure timely provision of welfare services to residents.

(h) Upon the completion of a new housing estate, the Integrated Family Service Centre/ISC operated by the SWD or subvented NGOs within the relevant geographical area would provide services in collaboration with other government departments/district organisations. This included applying for funding from the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund under the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau, in order to utilise a cross-sectoral collaboration model to assist new residents and their families in integrating into the community as quickly as possible. Examples included setting up move-in support stations, organising community orientation days and community information sessions to introduce community resources to residents and help them adapt to their new neighbourhood. In addition, the SWD would produce and distribute welfare service brochures to residents, informing them of the units providing welfare services in the area, their locations and service details.

15. Members expressed their views as follows:

(a) The intake of residents for the new public housing estates in Tung Chung was gradually in train, and the population was expected to increase by more than 30 000 by 2028. However, the relevant welfare facilities had not yet been completed, resulting in a lack of suitable venues for NGOs to deliver services. In this regard, Members urged the SWD to identify suitable venues for NGOs, such as by converting vacant land in the area for welfare purposes.

(b) The Tung Chung Community Services Complex (TCCSC) had been demolished, and the original service units inside the building could continue to provide services only until the completion of the Joint-user Complex in Area 107. In this regard, Members urged the SWD to take the initiative in collaborating with other departments to jointly advance the works for the Joint-user Complex, and to explore the feasibility of utilising existing land resources for short- to medium-term welfare purposes, so as to ensure that the relevant service units could provide welfare services to residents as soon as possible.

(c) Given that new residents in the area were generally younger, the SWD should strengthen employment and family support measures for these young families. There was a pressing demand among residents for home-based child care service. However, as the service quota currently provided by the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui (HKSKH) was full, the SWD should strengthen the service. Furthermore, the Department should review the allocation of resources in the area to avoid over-concentrating resources on individual service operators.

(d) Regarding the ICYSC which was expected to commence operations between 2027 and 2028, Members enquired with the SWD about the details of the tendering process of and site selection for the ICYSC, and requested the Department to provide figures on the growth in the youth population in the area and information on the corresponding measures taken in response.

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

(a) The Department would establish the ICYSC in Area 100 through service reprovisioning. The NGOs operating the services generally required approximately 9 to 12 months to carry out renovation works following the handover of the premises. According to the planning guidelines, the Government would establish an ICYSC for every 12 000 young people in the 6 to 24 age group.

(Post-meeting note: There were currently over 50 subvented welfare service units operated by NGOs providing comprehensive services to residents of Tung Chung. The service units were operated by a number of NGOs, including the HKSKH Welfare Council Limited, The Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council (NAAC), the OIWA Limited (OIWA), Caritas–Hong Kong, SJS, Po Leung Kuk, The Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong, Tung Wah Group of Hospitals, Heep Hong Society and SAHK, as well as the Family and Child Protective Services Units, the Tung Chung Social Security Field Unit and the Medical Social Services Unit of the North Lantau Hospital under the SWD's purview, which provided holistic welfare services to members of the public in the area.)

(b) With regard to child care services, the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project (Home-based Child Carers) was operated by the OIWA, providing no fewer than 92 home-based child care places, which comprised 78 home-based child care service places and 14 places for centre-based care groups. As at the end of 2025, there were a total of 99 home-based child carers in the Islands District, serving a total of over 600 children. In addition, there were three subvented nurseries in the area, including the Tung Chung Day Nursery at Yat Tung Estate and the Tung Yan Day Nursery at Caribbean Coast, both operated by The NAAC, as well as the HKSKH Tung Chung Nursery School at Fu Tung Estate. There were also non-profitmaking kindergartens providing early childhood education services in the area.

(c) Currently, five after-school care centres in Tung Chung were participating in the Fee-waiving Subsidy Scheme, providing a total of over 140 service places. In addition, the Po Leung Kuk After School Care Centre for Pre-primary Children (Tung Chung) had been providing after-school care services for pre-primary children since last August, and

there were still places available.

(d) At present, there were five NGOs in Tung Chung providing After School Care Programme for Primary School Student, offering care service for the children whose parents were unable to give proper care to them during after-school hours because of work, job search or other reasons. The service was operated by NGOs on a self-financing and fee-charging basis, providing primary school students with services including homework guidance, parental guidance and education, skill learning as well as social activities. In addition, three of these organisations provided Enhanced After School Care Programme in Tung Chung. Currently, five primary schools in Tung Chung were participating in the School-based After School Care Service Scheme, under which NGOs provided after-school care services to students.

(e) As regards the establishment of temporary welfare facilities, the SWD had been providing appropriate support to service units that did not yet have permanent premises, so that they could deliver services to residents. Service units might consider leasing vacant school premises from the LandsD or vacant non-domestic premises from the HD as temporary premises. The Department noted Members' suggestions and would identify more suitable premises.

(Post-meeting notes:

- Members said that the former TCCSC had been demolished, and that the service units originally based at the TCCSC would have to wait until the completion of the Joint-user Complex in Area 107 before they could continue to provide services. The SWD took this opportunity to clarify that the subvented welfare services for which premises had been reserved in the Joint-user Complex in Area 107 were unrelated to those previously provided at the TCCSC.
- According to Islands District Council CICRC Paper No. 9/2022, following the Government's revitalisation of the vacant Police Ex-traffic New Territories South Lantau Operational Base in Tung Chung into the TCCSC, the Islands District Office had been implementing the community services district partnership programme at that site since February 2009, providing four NGOs with temporary premises to deliver integrated community services to residents of Tung Chung (Note: The TCCSC was not recognised premises for the welfare services subvented/subsidised by the SWD operated by the relevant NGOs).
- In light of the further extension of the Tung Chung New Town, the site of the TCCSC had been handed over to the Civil Engineering and Development Department as planned for public housing development on 1 March 2022. Apart from the Young Men's Christian Association of Hong Kong Tung Chung Centre (Note: The services provided were not subvented by the SWD), which had already been relocated to the ground floor of Ching Yat House, Yat Tung (I) Estate, Tung Chung, the remaining three NGOs, namely the HKSKH

Tung Chung ISC, The NAAC - Tung Chung ISC and the OIWA, had been arranged by the Islands District Office to relocate to 15 Tung Chung Waterfront Road, where they would continue to provide community services to residents through the community services district partnership programme. The new premises retained the name "Tung Chung Community Services Complex" (the New Complex) (Note: The services provided by NGOs at the New Complex were not subvented by the SWD).

- The SWD had reserved premises in the Joint-user Complex in Area 107 for the following subvented welfare services:

  (i) a sub-base of the ISC;
  (ii) a CCC;
  (iii) an RCHE with a DCU;
  (iv) a DSC;
  (v) a PRC; and
  (vi) an Office Base of OPRS.

  The above subvented welfare services were unrelated to the services provided at the TCCSC or the New Complex; and the works project for the Joint-user Complex in Area 107 were already being followed up under the existing mechanism.)

17. Members expressed their views as follows:

(a) The population of Tung Chung would increase significantly in the coming years. Members were concerned that the existing welfare services might be unable to meet future demand and therefore urged the SWD to undertake early planning, such as identifying available land resources in the area (including sites designated for education in Tung Chung East) for short-term welfare service purposes.

(b) The Islands District had a unique geographical environment, with new public housing estates mainly concentrated in the Tung Chung New Town. The newly established ICCMW was located in Ma Wan New Village, and it took residents at least half an hour to go there. In view of this, the SWD might consider allowing NGOs to use vacant premises in existing public housing estates (such as Yat Tung Estate and Mun Tung Estate) to increase the service supply in the area. Furthermore, as welfare services in the area were mainly operated by single organisations, which might not be well-positioned to serve a larger number of residents, the SWD should engage different stakeholders and social welfare service providers to fill the service gaps.

(c) Members asked the SWD about the specific arrangements for the reprovision of services, including whether the Department would directly arrange NGOs currently operating in other districts to provide services in the Islands District, or whether it would re-tender to select

the most suitable service operators. They considered that service operators should have a good understanding of the unique characteristics and service needs of the districts in order to provide the most appropriate services.

(d) Members asked the SWD about the number of ICYSCs required to be established in Tung Chung based on the aforementioned HKPSG, as well as the timetable for their implementation.

18. The Chairman pointed out that when planning the provision of district community services, the SWD grouped the Islands, Central and Western, and Southern Districts into a single geographical service boundary, making it difficult to adequately address the welfare service needs of residents of the Islands District. As the population of the Tung Chung New Town would more than double by 2030, the SWD should allocate more resources to the Islands District to meet the increasingly pressing service needs of the residents.

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

(a) Regarding the reprovisioning of the ICYSC, the SWD would select the most suitable operator, which would familiarise itself with and study the characteristics of the district in order to provide appropriate services.

(b) In addition to Area 100, the Department had reserved sites in Tung Chung Areas 42 and 122 to establish an ICYSC in each area to meet local demand.

(Post-meeting note: In accordance with the standards set out in the HKPSG, the SWD intended to reprovision three ICYSCs at the Tung Chung New Development Area to meet service needs there and in neighbouring areas, while ensuring a more even distribution of youth services across Hong Kong. Regarding the implementation timetable, the Department would determine which centres were to be relocated and notify the relevant stakeholders accordingly, taking into account factors such as the progress of works in the New Development Area, as well as the supply of and demand for children's and youth services across all districts in Hong Kong. No tendering process would be involved.)

(c) When planning welfare service facilities, the Department had already established such facilities in the relevant areas in accordance with the HKPSG. In its current planning of welfare facilities, the Department continued to refer to the planning standards and guidelines for welfare facilities set out in the HKPSG, while taking relevant factors such as demographic structure, land-use planning and district-specific circumstances into account, in order to provide appropriate social welfare services.

(Post-meeting notes:

- In response to the development of the Tung Chung New Town Extension, the SWD had made early plans several years ago and had all along encouraged NGOs that did not yet have permanent premises to make transitional arrangements, where necessary and appropriate.

- Regarding premises available for welfare service use, some welfare service facilities, such as NECs, were provided to meet the needs of residents in the new town extension area. Therefore, the relevant public housing estates had to be completed before welfare facilities could be established in the premises reserved for them, so as to facilitate residents' access to the services.

- In fact, as the premises at Chun Tung Estate had not yet been handed over, in order to provide mental health support services to residents in the area as soon as possible, the SWD had collaborated with SJS, the operating NGO, which had set up a temporary office on the ground floor of No. 28 Ma Wan New Village, Tung Chung located within the centre's service area. The office had commenced operations on 1 March 2026, prior to the intake of residents of Chun Tung Estate. Furthermore, with the support of the SWD, the ICCMW, namely "Wellness Islands", had leased vacant non-domestic premises as its temporary office in a public housing estate (i.e. Shop No. 113, 1/F, Yat Tung Shopping Centre, Tung Chung). After renovation, the operator had moved into the premises on 18 May 2026. The ICCMW would continue to collaborate with various service units in the area to, among others, co-organise activities, borrow venues from neighbouring facilities and provide outreach services. It also operated a mobile van that regularly visited different locations in Tung Chung to provide mental health support services to residents. Through collaborating with social service and community organisations in the area, the ICCMW aimed to establish a network to provide services to local residents. In addition to providing services at its premises, the ICCMW also provided in-person counselling services for users through outreach visits.)

20. Members considered that the SWD should strengthen communication with other government departments and take the initiative to co-ordinate land resources in the area to assist NGOs in securing suitable venues for service delivery. For example, a number of commercial premises managed by the HD were currently available for lease. The SWD could intervene and assist NGOs in securing short-term tenancies for the provision of welfare services. Members called on the SWD to explore arrangements for short-term use of premises to ensure that residents could access services within the area.

21. The Chairman said that the newly established ICCMW was located in Ma Wan New Village, which was not easily accessible. He asked the SWD to respond to Members' earlier suggestion that the Department should utilise vacant premises within existing public housing estates for welfare service purposes, as well as their enquiries on the number of ICYSCs required to be established in Tung Chung according to the HKPSG.

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

(a) The ICCMW located in Ma Wan New Village was a temporary service point, which intended to provide services to residents as soon as possible. The ICCMW would establish a permanent service point in Tung Chung.

(Post-meeting note: Regarding the setting up of a temporary office by the ICCMW, namely "Wellness Islands", to provide mental health support services to local residents at the earliest opportunity, please refer to the post-meeting note in paragraph 19(c).)

(b) There would be three additional ICYSCs in Tung Chung (Note: Please refer to paragraph 19(b).)

(c) As regards the establishment of temporary welfare facilities, the Department would examine the feasibility of various suggestions to enable the service units to commence provision of services as soon as possible. In the meantime, the Department welcomed NGOs' suggestions on potentially suitable sites for the premises, and was willing to discuss feasible options with them.

(Post-meeting note: For the various considerations regarding the planning of welfare services, please refer to the post-meeting note in paragraph 14(f).)

23. The Chairman asked the SWD to provide a written reply after the meeting to offer supplementary information on matters that had not been responded to at the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat conveyed the above suggestions made by Members to the SWD on 28 May 2026. The Department's written reply was forwarded to Members for perusal on 8 June 2026.)

V. Question on the enhancement of postal services in Tung Chung
(CICRC Paper No. 13/2026)

24. The Chairman asked Members to refer to CICRC Paper No. 13/2026. The written reply of Hongkong Post (HKP) had been distributed to Members for perusal before the meeting.

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

26. Members expressed their views as follows:

(a) According to the HKP's written reply, the average daily transaction volume of Tung Chung Post Office recorded a year-on-year increase

from 410 in the 2023-24 financial year to 543 in the 2025-26 financial year, indicating a continuous increase in residents' demand for postal services. Members said that the waiting time for postal services at Tung Chung Post Office was long and that its service capacity was nearing saturation. The large number of residents in new public housing estates (such as Chun Tung Estate and Cheung Tung Estate) had further increased the demand for the services. In addition to postal services, the post offices also played a vital role in providing members of the public with access to key government services, such as registration for "iAM Smart+". HKP should send representatives to attend the meeting to communicate directly with Members. Furthermore, Members urged HKP to draw up detailed plans for postal facilities and services in Tung Chung to meet the future needs of residents in the area.

(b) Members said that they had repeatedly suggested in various occasions that HKP should install additional posting boxes in Tung Chung, but these suggestions had yet to be adopted to date. According to HKP's website, post offices should be provided so that large groups of population in urban areas should have access to facilities within 1.2 kilometres from where they resided or worked. The works under the Tung Chung Line Extension Project were now underway, and Tung Chung West Station and Tung Chung East Station would be completed shortly. Members therefore urged HKP to review the needs of residents of Tung Chung and actively plan its service network.

(c) Members said that HKP had previously invited District Council members to visit post offices. They therefore suggested that HKP should consider engaging with Members through other means (e.g. online meetings) to enhance the efficiency of communication.

27. The Chairman asked the Secretariat to write to HKP to convey Members' views on the enhancement of postal services in Tung Chung, and requested the department to consider engaging with Members through different means such as online meetings, guided tours and forums to enhance the efficiency of communication.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat conveyed the above suggestions made by Members to HKP on 28 May 2026. The department's written reply was forwarded to Members for perusal on 9 June 2026.)

VI. Reports on the work of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department in the Islands District in 2025-26

(i) Arts and Cultural Activities
(CICRC Paper No. 7/2026)

28. The Chairman asked Members to refer to CICRC Paper No. 7/2026, 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 elaborate on the paper.

29. Ms Viola LEUNG briefly presented the paper and provided the following supplementary information:

(a) The Purple Maple Chinese Opera would organise a community guided tour entitled "Cantonese Opera & Heritage District Showcases: Cantonese Opera and Intangible Cultural Heritage" on Cheung Chau on 10 May 2026, followed by a free performance of Cantonese opera excerpts that same afternoon at the bamboo shed theatre of the Pak Tai Festival of Cheung Chau (in front of Pak Tai Temple). The Department had forwarded the event details to Members via email on 16 April 2026.

(b) Regarding the "Song Recording and Music Video Shooting" activity under phase 3 of the "18dART – Community Arts Scheme in Islands" as stated in the activity report for April 2025 to March 2026 in Annex III to Paper No. 7/2026, the arts group had uploaded the music video to YouTube on 23 March 2026. As at 31 March 2026, the video had accumulated 4 800 views.

(ii) Extension Activities of Public Libraries
(CICRC Paper No. 8/2026)

30. The Chairman asked Members to refer to CICRC Paper No. 8/2026, and welcomed Ms CHUNG Chi-yuen, Candy, Senior Librarian (Islands) of the LCSD to the meeting to elaborate on the paper.

31. Ms Candy CHUNG briefly presented the paper.

(iii) Recreation and Sports Activities
(CICRC Paper No. 9/2026)

32. The Chairman asked Members to refer to CICRC Paper No. 9/2026, and welcomed Ms CHU Lai-yee, Agnes, Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Islands of the LCSD to the meeting to elaborate on the paper.

33. Ms Agnes CHU briefly presented the paper.

34. Members said that the LCSD had been organising a cappella classes for several consecutive years. They enquired whether the classes would be held in different areas of the Islands District, and whether the Department would adjust the themes of the classes in response to the number of participants and the feedback received. Furthermore, they said that the LCSD might consider organising activities at the newly opened Cheung Chau Community Hall, which was conveniently located.

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

(a) According to the findings of the opinion surveys continuously conducted by a contractor commissioned by the LCSD, music was the performing arts genre most favoured by residents of the Islands District. In recent years, activities featuring a cappella singing as the main art form had also received positive feedback.

(b) The Department sponsored the arts group in organising the "18dART – Community Arts Scheme in Islands" and assisted with the publicity and promotion of related activities. At present, activities were mainly held in Tung Chung for the convenience of the majority of participants; meanwhile, the arts group was actively exploring the possibility of holding events at other venues in the district. The Department was aware that the Cheung Chau Community Hall had recently come into service and would recommend that the arts group explore the feasibility of holding events there.

VII. Any Other Business

36. No further issues were raised by Members.

VIII. Date of Next Meeting

37. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:52 p.m. The next meeting would be held at 2:30 p.m. on 15 June 2026 (Monday).

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