

(Translation)

Islands District Council
Minutes of Meeting of
District Facilities and Works Committee

Date : 16 December 2024 (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 YU Hon-kwan, MH, JP

Vice-Chairman

Mr HO Chun-fai

Members

Mr HO Siu-kei

Mr NG Man-kit

Mr NG Choi-wah

Mr CHOW Yuk-tong, SBS, MH

Ms KWOK Wai-man, Mealoha

Mr WAN Yeung-kin

Mr WONG Man-hon, MH

Mr YIP Pui-kei

Mr LAU Chin-pang

Ms LAU Shun-ting

Co-opted Members

Mr CHEUNG Tsz-him, Ryan

Ms ZHANG Wan-hei

Attendance by Invitation

Mr HSIE Kwun-kuen, Joe

Ms NG Ka-wai, Annisa

Mr HO Wai-ming

Ms TSANG Hiu-sum

Mr LEE Sun-fu, Joe

Ms HAU Lok-yiu, Cordelia

Mr CHAN Chak-chung

Senior Engineer/Walkability 1, Transport Department

Senior Engineer 15/Works, Highways Department

Senior Engineer/HK 3, Water Supplies Department

Engineer/HK (Distribution 6),

Water Supplies Department

Senior Executive Officer (District Management),

Islands District Office

District Secretary, Islands District Office

Senior Inspector of Works, Islands District Office

In Attendance

Ms AU YEUNG Wing-sum, Livia	Assistant District Officer (Islands)2, Islands District Office
Ms HA Chung-wan, Joanne	District Leisure Manager (Islands), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms CHUNG Chi-yuen, Candy	Senior Librarian (Islands), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr KWOK Ka-ho	Manager (New Territories South) Marketing and District Activities, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms LAM Shuk-man, Mandy	Senior Executive Officer (Planning)21, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms KONG Yuen-fan, Bonnie	Architect (Works)5, Home Affairs Department
Mr YEUNG Che-yuen, Patrick	Senior Engineer/1 (Lantau), Civil Engineering and Development Department
Mr WAN Chi-kin, Vincent	Engineer/Lantau 5, Drainage Services Department
Mr WONG Chi-hung, Philix	Engineer/Islands(3), Highways Department

Secretary

Ms LAM Long-ching, Christine	Executive Officer (District Council)2, 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 representatives of departments in attendance:

- (a) Mr KWOK Ka-ho, Manager (New Territories South) Marketing and District Activities of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), who stood in for Ms LEUNG Wai-nga, Viola; and
- (b) Ms KONG Yuen-fan, Bonnie, Architect (Works)5 of the Home Affairs Department (HAD), who stood in for Ms WONG Hoi-ming, Helen.

I. **Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2024**

- 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.
- 3. Members did not propose any further amendments, and the minutes were confirmed unanimously.

II. “Provision of Cover to Walkway” (New Round)
(DFWC Paper No. 42/2024)

4. The Chairman asked Members to refer to DFWC Paper No. 42/2024, and welcomed Mr HSIE Kwun-kuen, Joe, Senior Engineer/Walkability 1 of the Transport Department (TD) and Ms NG Ka-wai, Annisa, Senior Engineer 15/Works of the Highways Department (HyD) to the meeting to present the paper.

5. Mr Joe HSIE and Ms Annisa NG briefly presented the paper with the aid of PowerPoint presentation, and supplemented that:

- (a) As there were palm trees planted along some sections of the alignment of the “Footbridge from the Proposed MTR Tung Chung West Station to Yu Tung Road”, the HyD would further study the feasibility of constructing foundations for the cover adjacent to the trees.
- (b) As regards the proposals of providing covers for other walkways in the district, Mr Joe HSIE advised that:
 - (i) The construction of a cover over the walkway at “Chung Yan Road near the North Lantau Hospital in Tung Chung” had already commenced. As for the extension of the cover to the junction of Chung Yan Road and Yat Tung Street, the alignment would be determined based on the pedestrian flow at the location after the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) completed the works in the vicinity. However, as the walkway at Yat Tung Street was relatively narrow, it might not be possible to extend the cover to Yat Tung Street.
 - (ii) Regarding the two proposed projects, namely “From the Bus Stop outside the Tung Chung Fire Station to Yu Tung Road” and “Chung Yan Road near Yat Tung Estate in Tung Chung”, they were not considered for the time being in view of the fact that there were, or would be, covered walkways in the vicinity as alternative routes.
- (c) If Members agreed to the Government’s proposal for the construction of walkway covers, the Government would commence the preliminary technical feasibility study in the first half of 2025. If Members put forward alternative proposals, it was expected that the programme would be confirmed between the end of 2025 and early 2026, with the preliminary technical feasibility study to commence subsequently.
- (d) The HyD would first conduct a preliminary technical assessment of the alignment proposal (including assessments of the adequacy of the width of the walkway, the impact on the surrounding environment,

neighbouring buildings and shops, and the impact on tree preservation and environmental protection). Once the Committee agreed to the proposal, the Department would proceed with a preliminary technical feasibility study (including studies on the impact of private land on the project, whether underground pipelines and facilities would fall within the areas managed by the MTR Corporation Limited or would be constrained by the trees and their roots, and temporary traffic diversion arrangements during the construction period).

- (e) The HyD would proceed with the preliminary design and cost estimation after completing the preliminary site investigation works and feasibility study. If the estimated cost of the project did not exceed the funding ceiling of \$50 million for a Category D project, the HyD would first conduct local consultation before creating a Category D item for funding approval. If the estimated cost exceeded the funding ceiling for a Category D project, it would be necessary to follow the established procedures for public works projects by first creating a Category C item, then upgrading it to Category B with local consultation, and then applying to the Legislative Council for upgrading the project to Category A for funding approval. Therefore, it would take a longer time to implement the project.

6. Members enquired about the approximate length of cover that could be constructed under the \$50 million funding ceiling for a Category D item, and whether it was possible to apply for \$50 million for the construction of the cover for one of the road sections first, and then the construction of the remaining walkway covers in phases.

7. Mr Joe HSIE responded that projects under the captioned programme were not subject to the requirements for the provision of walkway covers based on pedestrian flow. Furthermore, he said that as other works were currently being carried out near the proposed alignment, it was not possible to accurately estimate the length of the alignment and the project cost for the time being.

8. Ms Annisa NG responded that the funding ceiling of \$50 million could cover the construction of a cover of about 250 metres in length. The HyD would only be able to accurately estimate the cost of the project after the completion of the preliminary design.

9. Members expressed their views as follows:

- (a) There were a number of housing estates along Ying Hei Road in Tung Chung, but there was a lack of covered walkways in the vicinity. In view of the anticipated completion of the MTR Tung Chung East Station in 2029, the pedestrian flow of the walkway between Ying Hei Road and the Tung Chung East Station was expected to increase. Therefore, Members suggested that a cover should be constructed for the aforementioned walkway to facilitate residents' commuting to and from the Tung Chung East Station in the future.

- (b) Regarding Government's alignment proposal (i.e. "Footbridge from the Proposed MTR Tung Chung West Station to Yu Tung Road"), Members believed that if a cover was added to the entire walkway, the cost was expected to exceed \$50 million. In light of this, Members suggested that a cover should be constructed for the walkway between the footbridge at Chung Yan Road and Hong Yat House of Yat Tung Estate (approximately 20 to 30 metres long), and the existing covered walkway at Yat Tung Estate should be connected to Tung Chung West Station, so as to optimise the use of resources.
- (c) Member enquired about the time required from the submission of an application for upgrading the proposed alignment project to Category A to the approval of funding by the Legislative Council, if the estimated budget of the proposed alignment exceeded \$50 million.

10. The Chairman enquired whether the TD and the HyD could provide a cover for one of the sections of the walkway near the Tung Chung West Station and, at the same time, construct a cover for the walkway from the Tung Chung East Station to Ying Hei Road.

11. Mr Joe HSIE gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) He believed that consideration could be given to the suggestion of providing a cover for the walkway from the Tung Chung East Station to Ying Hei Road, but reminded Members that the captioned programme stipulated that only one walkway in each district could be selected for the provision of a cover. He said that the TD and the HyD could carry out preliminary technical assessments on the proposals put forward by Members as soon as possible and report back to Members in a few months, so that Members could select their preferred option.
- (b) All the projects taken forward by the TD in the first round of the "Provision of Covers for Walkways" programme were Category D projects which did not require funding approval from the Legislative Council. He said that as the processing time for projects to be upgraded to Category A would be longer, it was difficult to ascertain the time required to obtain funding approval.

12. The Chairman advised that the approval process for upgrading a project to Category A would take at least five years. He considered it necessary to provide a cover for the footbridge between the Tung Chung West Station and Yu Tung Road, and asked whether Members agreed to the above proposal. If Members decided to put forward the proposal of providing a cover for the walkway between the Tung Chung East Station and Ying Hei Road, he suggested raising it with the relevant departments immediately at the meeting or submitting it in writing to the relevant departments after further discussion at a special meeting to be held later.

13. Members enquired when the third round of the “Provision of Cover to Walkway” scheme would be launched, upon the completion of the new round of the scheme.

14. Mr Joe HSIE responded that the Government had announced the implementation of two rounds of the “Provision of Cover to Walkway” scheme in the 2016 and 2019 Policy Addresses, and there was no plan launching the third round for the time being.

15. The Chairman said that Members had unanimously agreed to the Government’s alignment proposal, and requested the relevant departments to commence the preliminary technical feasibility study as soon as possible. He also suggested that Members should strive for the provision of a cover for the walkway between the Tung Chung East Station and Ying Hei Road through other means.

III. Question on the provision of a multi-purpose games hall at Yung Shue Wan, Lamma Island

(DFWC Paper No. 43/2024)

16. The Chairman asked Members to refer to DFWC Paper No. 43/2024, and welcomed Ms LAM Shuk-man, Mandy, Senior Executive Officer (Planning)²¹ of the LCSD to the meeting to respond to the question. The written reply of the LCSD had been distributed to Members for perusal before the meeting.

17. Ms LAU Shun-ting briefly presented the question.

18. Members expressed their views as follows:

(a) Members said that they had raised the captioned matter at a District Council meeting, during which the LCSD had consulted the relevant departments on the proposed provision of a multi-purpose games hall near the Lamma Island Police Post. However, the Planning Department (PlanD) had indicated that the proposed facility was incompatible with the surrounding land uses. Members considered that the Yung Shue Wan Playground adjacent to the proposed site could not meet the demand of the residents and the basketball court was located at a remote location. Therefore, they suggested that a multi-purpose games hall should be provided in the vicinity of the Lamma Island Police Post to meet the demand of the residents. In this connection, Members requested to conduct an on-site inspection at the location with the PlanD.

(b) Members considered the recreational facilities in Yung Shue Wan inadequate and therefore requested the LCSD to provide additional facilities at the Yung Shue Wan Playground.

19. Ms Mandy LAM noted that Members had suggested the provision of multi-purpose games halls at two government sites in Yung Shue Wan in 2020 and 2022.

Upon receipt of Members' enquiries, the Department had enquired with the relevant government departments about the latest position of the above sites. The response indicated that the two government sites were being used as a construction materials warehouse and a site office of the Drainage Services Department. The adjacent site was also being used as a storage of liquefied petroleum gas cylinders, an open storage area and an outlying islands transfer facility of the Environmental Protection Department. The PlanD also advised that there was no change in the planning intention for the sites for the time being.

20. The Chairman asked Members to consider the provision of a multi-purpose games hall at other locations and then consult the PlanD on the matter. If necessary, Members could conduct an on-site inspection at the relevant locations together with the PlanD.

IV. Question on the contingency arrangements for the water supply suspension incident in Tung Chung
(DFWC Paper No. 44/2024)

21. The Chairman asked Members to refer to DFWC Paper No. 44/2024, and welcomed Mr HO Wai-ming, Senior Engineer/HK 3 and Ms TSANG Hiu-sum, Engineer/HK (Distribution 6) of the Water Supplies Department (WSD) to the meeting to respond to the question. The written reply of the WSD had been distributed to Members for perusal before the meeting.

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

23. Members expressed their views as follows:

- (a) The WSD repeatedly changed the estimated time for the resumption of water supply during the incident, causing confusion in the messages and inconvenience to nearby residents and business operators. In this regard, Members requested the Department to review the notification mechanism for water supply suspension incidents, including notifying District Council members in advance regarding the time for water supply resumption and providing a communication channel for frontline staff to promptly report on-site conditions to the WSD.
- (b) Some housing estates and villages (such as Yu Tai Court and Caribbean Coast) still had no fresh water supply or experienced poor water quality after the WSD announced the resumption of water supply. In this regard, Members asked the WSD to review the situation and address the aforementioned issues. On the other hand, Members commended the Department for the prompt distribution of bottled water to the affected residents of Yu Tai Court on that day, and suggested that the Department should formulate a contingency plan for water supply suspension incidents, so that timely contingency measures could be taken in the event of similar incidents in the future to minimise the inconvenience

caused to residents.

- (c) Members asked the WSD about the number of existing water tanks in the Islands District and how the new service reservoir in Siu Ho Wan would improve the water supply system. Members also suggested that the Department should provide additional water tanks for the Islands District to meet the demand of the growing population, and should improve the placement of water tanks, the process of deploying water tanks and the communication mechanism among the WSD's frontline staff.
- (d) Members asked the WSD how it would monitor the utilisation of water mains to minimise the risk of water mains bursts and leakage. Members also suggested that the Department should install sensors on water tanks to monitor the utilisation of temporary fresh water, so as to reduce the need for manual monitoring.
- (e) Some expatriate residents in Tung Chung reflected that they were unable to obtain the latest information during the incident. Therefore, Members suggested that relevant information to be disseminated by the WSD in future should be available in English as well.

24. The Chairman appreciated the difficulty in handling large-scale water supply suspension incidents and thanked the WSD and the Islands District Office (IsDO) for their active collaboration with District Council members and the Care Teams. However, he considered that the contingency measures taken by the WSD during the incident were not well developed, which had led to confusion. In this connection, he asked the WSD to formulate a contingency plan (including collaboration with the IsDO, the Care Teams and District Council members) for similar water supply suspension incidents after the meeting, and suggested that the WSD should consider conducting a review meeting with the District Officer (Islands) to evaluate the effectiveness of the contingency measures.

25. Mr HO Wai-ming gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) The WSD apologised to the Tung Chung residents affected on that day and thanked the District Council members and the Care Teams for their assistance. The Department was reviewing the notification mechanism for water suspension incidents and would announce the relevant information to the public in a timely manner.
- (b) As the incident in question involved large trunk mains of the entire water mains network in the Tung Chung area, the WSD required a longer time to flush out the sediments in the water mains. Therefore, the quality of water might be unsatisfactory during the initial period of water supply resumption. Furthermore, as the water mains network involved in the incident covered a wide area, some housing estates situated at the end of the water supply network would take a longer time to have the water

supply resumed.

- (c) Currently, the WSD provided 20 water tanks for the Lantau Island. During the incident, the Department borrowed water tanks and water trucks from other districts and ultimately provided over 100 water tanks to supply temporary water to the affected residents.
- (d) Currently, fresh water was still being used for toilet flushing in the Tung Chung area, while the seawater flushing system in Tung Chung being constructed by the CEDD was expected to be put into service in 2025 to supply seawater for toilet flushing in the district. Thus, more fresh water could be reserved for fresh water supply in the future, and it was believed that the stability of fresh water supply would be enhanced. In addition, the CEDD was constructing a new fresh water service reservoir in Siu Ho Wan, which was expected to be completed in 2025. Upon completion of the distribution mains, it would be able to complement the existing service reservoirs and serve for emergency supply of water.
- (e) The WSD had conducted radar surveys on the trunk water mains in question and confirmed that there was no leakage problem in the mains currently. The Department had also installed noise loggers on the trunk mains to detect leakage locations through sound analysis.
- (f) The WSD had put in place temporary fresh water supply arrangements (e.g. the placement of water tanks) for water suspension incidents. The Department had also set up instant messaging groups with District Council members, Care Teams and District Offices in all districts across Hong Kong to ensure close communication and collaboration among all parties in responding to similar incidents.

(Post-meeting note: The WSD was currently reviewing the detailed contingency plan and notification mechanism for large-scale water supply suspension incidents. The Department would release the relevant information to the public upon completion of the review, and report the details to the District Council in due course.)

V. Report on the services of the public libraries in Islands District by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department between September 2024 and October 2024
(DFWC Paper No. 39/2024)

26. The Chairman asked Members to refer to DFWC Paper No. 39/2024, and welcomed Ms CHUNG Chi-yuen, Candy, Senior Librarian (Islands) of the LCSD to the meeting to present the paper.

27. Ms Candy CHUNG presented the paper.

28. Members said that they had suggested at a meeting that the mobile library service stop at Yat Tung Estate in Tung Chung should be relocated to a location with

higher pedestrian flow in the estate. Members thanked the LCSD for its proactive follow-up actions, including arranging an on-site inspection and liaising with relevant departments such as the Housing Department (HD). The HD had put forward a preliminary proposal regarding the matter.

VI. Report on the management of Leisure and Cultural Services Department's recreational and sports facilities in Islands District (September to October 2024)
(DFWC Paper No. 40/2024)

29. The Chairman asked Members to refer to DFWC Paper No. 40/2024, and welcomed Ms HA Chung-wan, Joanne, District Leisure Manager (Islands) of the LCSD to the meeting to present the paper.

30. Ms Joanne HA presented the paper.

31. Members noted the content of the paper.

VII. Utilisation of community halls in Islands District
(DFWC Paper No. 41/2024)

32. The Chairman asked Members to refer to DFWC Paper No. 41/2024, and welcomed Mr LEE Sun-fu, Joe, Senior Executive Officer (District Management) and Ms HAU Lok-yiu, Cordelia, District Secretary of the IsDO to the meeting to present the paper.

33. Mr Joe LEE presented the paper.

34. Members noted the content of the paper.

VIII. Any Other Business

35. The Chairman advised that some Members held an informal meeting with the TD, the HD and the Social Welfare Department (SWD) on 21 November 2024 to follow up on the "Question on the progress of the construction of escalators in Cheung Kwai Estate", during which Members expressed their views on the short-term and medium-term measures to facilitate access of residents of Cheung Kwai Estate. Although the escalator project for Cheung Kwai Estate had not been included in the 11 first-batch projects, Members had actively recommended to the TD that the project should be included in the second-batch projects. At the meeting, the HD advised that currently, it was unable to provide transport service for residents of the estates, but it could arrange transfers for tenants with mobility difficulties. In addition, the SWD stated at the meeting that it had been providing escort services (such as accompanying for medical appointments) for the elderly and persons with disability in need of welfare assistance living in Cheung Chau, including Cheung Kwai Estate, through the Wan Ho Kan Neighbourhood Elderly Centre of the Chung Shak Hei (Cheung Chau) Home for the

Aged Limited and the Cheung Chau Service Centre of the Hong Kong Family Welfare Society, which were organisations subvented by the SWD. Regarding Members' suggestion to explore the feasibility of existing welfare service units providing scheduled transport services for residents in need, the SWD advised that it would explore its feasibility.

36. Members suggested that another informal meeting should be held with the relevant departments to follow up on the matter.

37. The Chairman suggested that the SWD should report on the progress of the proposal on the provision of transport services for needy residents of Cheung Kwai Estate through non-profit organisations in about three months (i.e. March 2025).

IX. Date of Next Meeting

38. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:36 p.m. The next meeting would be held at 10:30 a.m. on 25 February 2025 (Tuesday).

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