

**Minutes of the 7th Meeting of
the Social Services, Housing and Development Planning Committee of
the Kowloon City District Council**

Date: 6 February 2025 (Thursday)
Time: 2:30 p.m.
Venue: Conference Room, Kowloon City District Office

Present:

Chairman: Mr NG Po-keung, MH
Vice-chairman: Ms FUNG Mo-kwan
Members: Mr TING Kin-wa, MH
Mr CHO Wui-hung, MH
Mr LEE Chiu-yu
Mr NG Fan-kam, MH
Mr HE Huahan, MH
Mr LAM Pok
Mr LAM Tak-shing, MH
Ms LEUNG Yuen-ting
Mr CHAN Chi-wah
Mr CHEUNG King-fan
Ms WONG Man-lei, Vivian
Mr WONG Man-kong
Mr WONG Chi
Ms LAU Yuen-yin
Mr PUN Kwok-wah, JP
Mr LAI Yin-chung
Mr KWAN Ho-yeung
Co-opted Members: Mr WU Ming-tai
Mr SIU Tin-hung
Mr CHAN Hing-tat, Rudy

Secretary: Mr CHIU Tai-wai, David Executive Officer I (District Council), Kowloon City District Office

Absent:

Member: Dr Rizwan ULLAH, MH

<u>In Attendance:</u>	Miss MAK Wai-man, Sandy	Senior Liaison Officer (Building Management), Kowloon City District Office
	Miss KWAN Wai-size	Social Work Officer 2 (Planning & Coordinating), Social Welfare Department
	Mr CHEUNG Kwok-ho, Mike	Senior Engineer / 5 (East), Civil Engineering and Development Department
	Mr KWOK Man-hin, Ryan	Town Planner / Kowloon 1, Planning Department
	Mr CHAN Wai-wa	Senior Housing Manager / Kowloon West and Sai Kung 1, Housing Department

Attendance by Invitation:

Item 5	Mr CHAN Tat-ming, Neil	Principal Tobacco and Alcohol Control Inspector, Department of Health
	Mr CHAN Tsan-wing	Chief Tobacco and Alcohol Control Inspector 2, Department of Health
Item 7	Ms CHAN Yuk-sim	Head of Community Network, Health Bureau

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Opening Remarks by the Chairman

1. **The Chairman** of the Social Services, Housing and Development Planning Committee (SSHDPC) welcomed all Members and representatives of departments to the seventh meeting of the SSHDPC.

2. **The Chairman** reminded Members to register their interests in accordance with the stipulation of Order 22 of the Kowloon City District Council Standing Orders (the Standing Orders). If the matters to be discussed had any connection or potential conflict of interests with Members' personal interests such as property rights, profession or investment, Members should make a declaration proactively at the meeting so that he could make a decision in accordance with the Standing Orders.

3. **The Chairman** stated that in accordance with Order 80(1) of the Standing Orders, the quorum at any meeting of a committee should be half of the total number of members of the committee provided that District Council members must constitute half or more of the members attending the meeting. If the quorum was not present at the commencement of the meeting or in the course of the meeting, he would direct the Secretary to summon the absentees. If the quorum was still not present 15 minutes thereafter, he would adjourn the meeting. According to the stipulation of Order 13 of the Standing Orders, he then set out that each attendee was allowed to make a maximum of three speeches during a discussion on the same agenda item and the time limit for each speech was two minutes. He also reminded the attendees to switch off their mobile phones or to turn the ringers to vibration notification to avoid causing disturbances to the meeting.

4. **The Chairman** stated that he received an application for absence from Dr Rizwan ULLAH on the grounds of “sickness” before the commencement of the meeting. After consulting Members, the Chairman announced that the application for absence submitted by Dr Rizwan ULLAH was accepted in principle. A medical certificate shall be supplemented.

[Post-meeting note: Dr Rizwan ULLAH submitted the medical certificate and the Notification of Absence from Meetings on 7 February.]

Item 1

Confirmation of Minutes of the 6th Meeting

5. **The Chairman** announced that the minutes of the sixth meeting were unanimously endorsed by the committee without amendments.

Item 2

Concern over Redevelopment Arrangements for Ma Tau Wai Estate and Chun Seen Mei Chuen

(SSHDPC Paper No. 1/2025)

6. **A Member** introduced Paper No. 1/2025.

7. **The Chairman** invited Members to refer to the written replies furnished by the Housing Department (HD) and the Hong Kong Housing Society (HKHS), i.e. Documents No. 1 and 2 tabled.

8. **Members** raised the following views and enquiries:

- (i) Members stated that some residents of Ma Tau Wai Estate would be rehoused to newly constructed housing estates on To Kwa Wan Road according to the Chief Executive's 2021 Policy Address. Members enquired whether the relocation operation was still proceeding as scheduled and the site of relocation for the remaining residents;
- (ii) Members pointed out that some residents were perplexed by the uncertainty over the redevelopment arrangements for Ma Tau Wai Estate and Chun Seen Mei Chuen. It was suggested that the related departments could provide information such as the relocation schedule, details of the Domestic Removal Allowance (DRA) and related arrangements as soon as possible, and engage in early communication with Members so that affected residents and other stakeholders could plan ahead and make corresponding arrangements;
- (iii) Members enquired about the specific rehousing plans for the housing estate organisations or associations affected by the redevelopment works, as well as the details related to parking space arrangements;
- (iv) some residents would like to obtain related information on relocation as early as possible for considering arrangements such as applying for the Home Ownership Scheme or other types of housing;
- (v) according to the documents submitted by the HKHS last year, a detailed relocation plan was expected to be released by mid-2025 with relocation operations commencing next year. Members enquired whether it would still proceed as originally planned; and
- (vi) since the redevelopment works for the stormwater storage tank in a site near Chun Seen Mei Chuen were carried out concurrently, nearby schools were considering temporary campus relocation to minimise the impact of the redevelopment works. Members suggested the Department to announce the details of the redevelopment arrangement as soon as possible.

9. **The representative of the HD** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA) was currently exploring solutions for the redevelopment plan and conducting related technical assessments. To facilitate the formulation of redevelopment solutions, a public engagement exercise to collect views and feedbacks from residents, District Council members and stakeholders for the redevelopment plan would commence in early 2025, including setting up information booths, conducting workshops and questionnaire surveys;
- (ii) the HA would soon invite members of the Kowloon City District Council (KCDC) to participate in the public consultation. Details of the entire redevelopment plan and rehousing arrangements would be announced within this year;
- (iii) staff from the Development and Construction Division would meet with members of the KCDC on 10 February this year for more in-depth discussions and exchanges regarding the redevelopment arrangements;
- (iv) the HA was highly concerned about the impacts of the development on the neighbourhood and the surrounding environment, and was committed to minimising the impacts of the construction site on nearby residents and schools. The HA would require contractors to implement dust control and monitoring measures and ensure compliance with the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance and other statutory requirements in the works contracts. Meanwhile, the HA would also maintain close communication with the schools and require works contractors to conduct noisy works outside of examination hours; and
- (v) foundation works for the public housing development on To Kwa Wan Road were currently underway, whereas superstructure works were expected to commence in the fourth quarter of this year. The entire project was expected to complete in 2028.

10. **Members** further raised the following views:

- (i) Members suggested the Department to work closely with the District Council and local resident groups on matters concerning residents' welfare, including priority purchase of subsidised housing, the DRA and information exchange; and
- (ii) Members stated that urban land was a valuable resource. Redevelopment of old housing estates could increase the number of housing units and would bring positive impacts to Hong Kong. Members suggested the Government to consider its financial situation thoroughly in future planning and explore a more efficient construction solution.

11. **The representative of the HD** expressed the intention to gather views from various stakeholders during the information collection stage so that they could make appropriate accommodation and plans to reduce unnecessary misunderstandings. The Department understood that resident would like to learn the details of the redevelopment plan as early as possible and pledged to make prompt announcement once a concrete schedule was available.

12. **Members** suggested that the three-phase redevelopment approach used in Choi Hung Estate should be avoided in the redevelopment of Ma Tau Wai Estate and Chun Seen Mei Chuen. Since redevelopment approach by phases would take a longer period of time, it would cause inconvenience to the residents, community and nearby facilities. The Department should actively consider capitalising on the geographical advantage of the proximity between Ma Tau Wai Estate and Chun Seen Mei Chuen to create synergy, thereby reducing the time cost and the impacts on the surrounding areas.

13. **The representative of the HD** stated that Members' suggestions had been noted.

14. **The Chairman** stated that all Members were very concerned about the redevelopment plans for Ma Tau Wai Estate and Chun Seen Mei Chuen and invited all Members to actively express their views during the consultation.

Item 3**Proposal for the Authorities to Conduct Comprehensive Inspections on Lifts at Tak Long Estate**

(SSHDPC Paper No. 2/2025)

15. **A Member** introduced Paper No. 2/2025.
16. **The Chairman** invited Members to refer to the written reply furnished by the HD, i.e. Document No. 3 tabled.
17. **The representative of the HD** replied with the main points as follows:
 - (i) the Department had always attached great importance to the service and safety of lifts in public housing estates under their purview. All lifts were repaired and maintained by Registered Lift Contractors in accordance with the Lifts and Escalators Ordinance, Codes of Practice and the requirements of the maintenance contracts to ensure their safety and reliability;
 - (ii) the Department attached particular importance on the routine maintenance of lifts. The Department required contractors to conduct timely repair and maintenance for all lifts in housing estates, irrespective of their servicing ages, in accordance with the maintenance contract to ensure their safe operation. In addition, contractors were required to conduct weekly routine maintenance and regular tests, submit quarterly inspection reports, perform annual scheduled examinations and conduct regular examinations of lifts with load at intervals not exceeding five years. According to the records of the past six months, the overall operation of the lifts in Tak Long Estate was in sound condition;
 - (iii) to maintain the quality, comfort and reliability of lift services, the Department and Tak Long Estate Property Services Management Office met with the lift contractor in early January this year to conduct a review on the lift operation in Tak Cheung House. The contractor ran tests on all lifts in Tak Cheung House and confirmed that the system was operating in sound condition;

- (iv) in response to earlier reports from residents about the situation of lift stoppage during use, the contractor conducted an inspection and found no equipment fault. It was therefore suspected that the lift's outer doors on a certain floor might have been affected by external factors, which triggered the operation of safety device, thereby temporarily trapping the passengers. The Management Office had deployed staff to increase patrols and required the contractor to pay special attention to the lift operations in Tak Long Estate during regular maintenance, make appropriate adjustment to the lift system and make early replacement of components prone to ageing; and
- (v) the Management Office and the contractor had stepped up the cleaning of the lift door tracks to prevent debris and/or litter from affecting lift operation. In addition, the Management Office also posted notices and posters to remind residents of the proper use of lifts to avoid disruption to lift operations.

18. **Members** raised the following views and enquiries:

- (i) the Department's response failed to effectively address the problem of sudden lift stoppage. Despite pledges to improve its repairs and to ensure safe usage by the Department and the contractor in the last meeting, the problem still persisted. Members suggested the provision of new devices to prevent stoppage caused by inadvertent triggering of the lift safety mechanism;
- (ii) Members expressed that even though the lift inspection report indicated sound operation, some worn components were continued to be in use because they had not met the replacement criteria, which contributed to problems with lift operation;
- (iii) given the recurring repair and maintenance problems with the lift contractor, it was suggested that the Department could consider engaging a third-party unit for acceptance tests or establish a professional team to conduct inspections and acceptance tests for lifts and escalators; and
- (iv) conducting regular inspection of loaded lifts at intervals not exceeding five years was too infrequent. It was suggested that the

Department should conduct lift inspection and repair every year to ensure safety.

19. **The representative of the HD** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) the Department stated that lift inspection in public housing estates was more frequent compared to private housing. Contractors were required to conduct weekly routine maintenance and regular tests, submit quarterly inspection reports and perform annual scheduled examination to ensure sound lift operations;
- (ii) the Department also conducted regular examination of loaded lifts at intervals not exceeding five years and strictly complied with related codes and ordinances for lifts to ensure residents' safety; and
- (iii) the Department had noted Members' views and would relay them to the works section and find more areas for improvement.

20. **The Chairman** urged the Department to step up the repair and inspection of lifts for residents' safety.

Item 4

Proposal to Step up Anti-rodent Work at Tak Long Estate and Kai Ching Estate (SSHDPC Paper No. 3/2025)

21. **A Member** introduced Paper No. 3/2025 and supplemented as follows.

- (i) suggested the HD to collaborate with the Pest Control Section of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) to conduct joint operations, with a view to reviewing the loopholes in the installation of rat guards together;
- (ii) the current practice of using glue traps and cage trapping had shown moderate effectiveness in capturing rodents. It was suggested that additional funding could be allocated for the procurement of alcohol rodent trapping devices, which were safer, to be placed on the building podiums where rodent infestation was more serious; and

- (iii) suggested the HD to enhance publicity and inform the residents of lower floors to take anti-rodent measures properly.

22. **Members** raised the following views and enquiries:

- (i) Members stated that the problem of rodent infestation was not limited to Tak Long Estate and Kai Ching Estate. It also worsened noticeably in the new residential area of Kai Tak. Members considered this was caused by poor hygiene conditions across the entire area;
- (ii) Members suggested to start with the overall environmental hygiene, with Kai Ching Estate and Tak Long Estate serving as the centre of the operations. The Department could collaborate with related departments such as the FEHD to take measures that would eradicate the problem of rodent infestation across the entire Kai Tak residential area, thereby effectively solving the situation of rodent infestation in Tak Long Estate and Kai Ching Estate;
- (iii) in view of rodent sighting that occurred in some residential flats, Members suggested the HD and estate management companies to pay closer attention to the issue and provide assistance to those in need and elders in improving hygiene condition of their living environment;
- (iv) Members stated that residents had reported the problem of exacerbated rodent infestation in Kai Tak area due to site works. Citing the example of the site works for MTR Whampoa Station, Members pointed out that the problem of rodent infestation still plagued the residents even after completion of the works. Therefore, rodent prevention efforts could not be relaxed; and
- (v) Members considered that the rapid proliferation of rodents undermined the effectiveness of the rodent control operations. Only by identifying the cause of rodent infestation could the problem be tackled at its root.

23. **The Chairman** invited Members to refer to the written reply furnished by the HD, i.e. Document No. 4 tabled.

24. **The representative of the HD** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) the Department had all along been attaching great importance to the environmental hygiene in public housing estates and was fully committed to supporting the anti-rodent work of the Government. To provide a clean living environment for residents, the Department had been continuously conducting cleansing operations and anti-rodent measures in all estates under their purview;
- (ii) in addition to stepping up routine cleansing and pest control measures in Tak Long Estate and Kai Ching Estate, the Department also conducted multi-pronged operations to enhance the effectiveness of rodent prevention and control work in these estates, which included improving the environmental hygiene of the estates, strengthening rodent prevention/anti-rodent work in the area and putting in publicity and education efforts;
- (iii) the Department would target rodents from three aspects, namely food, harbourage and passages, which involved the elimination of food sources, removal of hiding places and blockage of the dispersal routes of rodents;
- (iv) the Department would place additional rodenticides and rodent cage traps as well as install rodent meshes and rat guards at locations with more serious rodent infestation in the estates. To further enhance the effectiveness of anti-rodent efforts, a professional pest control company in the private sector would also be additionally engaged to carry out targeted anti-rodent work in the estates;
- (v) to further improve the rodent prevention and control work, the Property Services Management Offices of Tak Long Estate and Kai Ching Estate would invite the FEHD and local stakeholders to conduct joint inspections of the estates from time to time. Joint cleansing operations would also be carried out with them to strengthen cleansing and rodent prevention/anti-rodent work within the estates and in the surrounding areas, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of these efforts;

- (vi) the Department stated that the Property Services Management Offices of Tak Long Estate and Kai Ching Estate arranged training courses on rodent prevention and control for the participation of their frontline staff and contractors from time to time. These courses enabled them to equip with the related knowledge and information to strengthen rodent prevention/anti-rodent works in Tak Long Estate and Kai Ching Estate more effectively; and
- (vii) in terms of publicity and education, the HD would continue to utilise various channels, such as posters, leaflets, the Estate Newsletters, the Housing Channel, and where feasible, joint activities with non-governmental organisations, to promote messages on environmental hygiene and pest control to residents, thereby raising their awareness on rodent prevention and control.

25. **The Chairman** stated that rodent infestation was a problem across various housing estates and urged Members to report rodent sightings continuously to the Department.

Item 5

Urge to Improve the Undesirable Situation of Illegal Distribution of Leaflets for the Sale of Illicit Cigarettes at Tak Long Estate and Kai Ching Estate

(SSHDPC Paper No. 4/2025)

26. **A Member** introduced Paper No. 4/2025.

27. **The Chairman** invited Members to refer to the written replies furnished by the HD and the Department of Health (DH), i.e. Documents No. 5 and 6 tabled.

28. **Members** raised the following views and enquiries:

- (i) the illegal distribution of leaflet for illicit cigarette sale was quite a prevalent situation in public housing estates of Kowloon City District. Residents reported that such leaflets were often found at the gates of their doorstep, causing nuisance. Members suggested the related departments to strengthen enforcement and clean-up operations;
- (ii) some residents considered that the leaflets for illicit cigarette sale were distributed by public housing tenants on a part-time basis.

Members suggested to list the illegal distribution of such leaflets as a form of tenancy abuse subject to penalties to increase the deterrent effect;

- (iii) while acknowledging that the HD had taken measures, such as reporting to the Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) about the cases of illegal distribution of leaflet for illicit cigarette sale, stepping up patrols and removing leaflets, Members considered the effectiveness of these efforts was limited. Members suggested that the Department should introduce new measures or update and amend related ordinances to seek more effective solutions;
- (iv) Members stated that if residents did not promptly remove the leaflets for illicit cigarette sale from the gates of their doorstep, it could signal burglars that the flat was unoccupied, thereby increasing the risk of burglary; and
- (v) Members understood that in combatting these incidents, law enforcement agencies adopted the strategy of intercepting these activities at source based on risk assessment and intelligence analysis. However, they considered that addressing the offence of illegal sale of illicit cigarettes was essential in tackling the root of the problem. Members suggested that law enforcement agencies could collaborate with other departments, including the HA, to jointly conduct deterring, targeted operations in a high profile manner.

29. **The representative of the DH** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) according to the Smoking (Public Health) Ordinance (Cap. 371), no person shall distribute smoking product advertisement in any form, including any leaflets. Any person who contravened the above regulation committed an offence and was liable on conviction to a maximum fine of HK\$50,000. The Tobacco and Alcohol Control Office (TACO) under the DH would investigate and follow up on any complaints received regarding suspected breaches of the Smoking (Public Health) Ordinance. If any breach was found, the TACO would take out prosecution;

- (ii) in response to complaints about the distribution of illicit cigarette leaflets in public housing estates, the TACO had, in conjunction with the Police, the HD and the C&ED, conducted over 250 joint operations in a number of public housing estates across the territory since January last year to combat the sale of illicit cigarettes and related promotional activities in public housing estates;
- (iii) to target activities such as the distribution of illicit cigarette leaflets in public housing estates and street promotions of cigarettes, the C&ED, in conjunction with the TACO, conducted over 40 joint inspection operations in 2024. The C&ED successfully referred five individuals suspected of distributing illicit cigarette leaflets to the TACO for follow-up investigations;
- (iv) between September and October 2024, the TACO collaborated with the C&ED in conducting operations to combat illicit cigarette leaflets in targeted high-risk areas. During these operations, the TACO was primarily responsible for handling offences related to tobacco advertisements, while the C&ED was responsible for combatting the activities of the purchase and sale of illicit cigarettes. In three cases, the persons involved had been successfully convicted. These individuals, aged between 23 and 57, came from different districts and were ordinary members of the public such as students and housewives. They might have been misled by media advertisements into believing that distributing such leaflets was an ordinary part-time job;
- (v) according to the information, over 90 per cent of complaints concerning promotional leaflets with smoking advertisement were related to public housing estates, whereas complaints involving private housing estates were relatively few. If management companies could step up their monitoring, the situation could be improved;
- (vi) in 2024, the TACO conducted multiple inspections in Kai Ching Estate and Tak Long Estate respectively, during which no illegal acts were found. In February this year, the TACO conducted another inspection in the two estates and did not find any distribution of illicit cigarette leaflets;

- (vii) in 2022, the TACO established a cooperation mechanism with the HD and the Police. In addition to intelligence sharing, management staff would promptly report to the Police upon detecting distribution of illicit cigarette leaflets in areas under their management. Upon arrival, the Police would stop the suspects, record their personal particulars and seize the promotional leaflets. The case would be subsequently referred to the TACO for taking out prosecution; and
- (viii) the TACO expected to continue conducting more joint operations with the C&ED and the HD in the coming year to further improve the situation.

30. **Members** raised the following views and enquiries:

- (i) Members enquired whether the TACO would collaborate with the C&ED or the Police to combat the illegal act of promoting illicit cigarette sale through non-physical means online, such as via social media;
- (ii) Members enquired whether the Department would initiate enforcement actions based on reports from residents who saw the distribution of illicit cigarette leaflets and submitted photos of it to the TACO;
- (iii) Members suggested the TACO to consider stepping up its publicity efforts for easier access to related information by residents in the district and members of the public. Members also suggested posting notices indicating the ban on illicit cigarette sale in related building lobbies to remind members of the public that such act is illegal; and
- (iv) Members suggested the TACO to provide reporting QR codes and hotlines for public enquiries and reports, thereby facilitating more efficient handling of the related problems by the Department.

31. **The representative of the DH** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) the TACO found that, apart from the distribution of physical leaflets, cigarette advertisements were also widely circulated on the internet and social media. A designated team was subsequently established

to conduct online surveillance. In 2024, nearly 1 700 related websites and social media accounts were successfully handled, with the related content removed or warning letters issued;

- (ii) the TACO also targeted tobacco advertisements on store light-boxes and bar menus, for which a total of 62 summonses and 41 warning letters were issued in 2024. To prevent deterioration of the situation, the TACO would continue monitoring various types of media to combat tobacco promotion on all fronts, including paper leaflets, websites and social media posts;
- (iii) regarding whether photos of leaflet distribution taken by residents could serve as evidence, the TACO welcomed assistance from residents or management company staff in gathering evidence, which would help combat illegal acts. The TACO pointed out that, in 2024, a resident successfully used a security camera to capture a footage of and intercept an individual distributing such leaflets. As a result, the individual was successfully prosecuted based on the footage and the leaflets; and
- (iv) the TACO stated that they had collaborated with district representatives and members of the District Council in Ngau Tau Kok area and Kwun Tong District last year to organise two successful joint publicity activities, which yielded remarkable results. Subject to manpower and resources, the TACO would continue to plan publicity activities that would extend to all 18 districts in the future. The Department would liaise with the District Councils and their members to further take forward the related initiatives.

Item 6

Proposal for the Labour Department to Step up Efforts in Site Inspections

(SSHDPC Paper No. 5/2025)

32. **A Member** introduced Paper No. 5/2025.

33. **The Chairman** invited Members to refer to the written reply furnished by the Labour Department (LD), i.e. Document No. 7 tabled. The LD did not send a representative to attend this meeting due to other matters.

34. **Members** raised the following views and enquiries:

- (i) expressed regret that the LD did not send a representative to attend the meeting;
- (ii) Members enquired whether the surprise inspections mentioned in the written reply referred to random inspections or regular inspections;
- (iii) Members enquired whether the Department had the authority to require immediate suspension of the site works if irregularities were found on site during inspections; and whether further review was required before the works could be resumed following improvements on the site; and
- (iv) Members enquired about the specific functions of the Smart Site Safety System mentioned in the written reply, including details on how it monitored and prevented safety hazards, as well as how it could safeguard workers' safety effectively. Members enquired whether there were any successful cases for the use of the system that could serve as reference.

35. **The Chairman** asked the Secretariat to request the LD to answer Members' enquiries via email and to circulate the response document among all Members for reference.

[Post-meeting note: The Secretariat forwarded the supplementary response from the LD to all Members on 19 February 2025 for reference.]

Item 7

Proposal to Provide Additional Services at Kowloon City District Health Centre Express

(SSHDPC Paper No. 6/2025)

36. **A Member** introduced Paper No. 6/2025.

37. **The Chairman** invited Members to refer to the written reply furnished by the Health Bureau (HB), i.e. Document No. 8 tabled.

38. **Members** raised the following views and enquiries:

- (i) Members acknowledged the work of The Lok Sin Tong Benevolent Society, Kowloon (Lok Sin Tong) in operating Kowloon City District Health Centre Express (KC DHCE). Members stated that the resources used by Lok Sin Tong to operate the KC DHCE were funded by the Government allocation and had been allocated to established projects. It was suggested that if new projects were to be added, corresponding resources should also be allocated in parallel to support the development of primary healthcare service projects;
- (ii) Members stated that the KC DHCE was located in To Kwa Wan that lacked direct transportation from surrounding areas. Residents from areas such as Ho Man Tin Estate, Oi Man Estate, Ma Tau Wai Estate and Chun Seen Mei Chuen had to walk a distance after taking the MTR, rendering the location inconvenient;
- (iii) Members considered that the scale of the KC DHCE was inadequate to meet the needs of the entire population of Kowloon City, which comprised five major areas totalling 420 000 people. Members suggested to establish more District Health Centre Expresses (DHCEs) or District Health Centres (DHCs) so that more members of the public could have access to primary healthcare services;
- (iv) Some residents reported that information about the use of Health Care Vouchers at the KC DHCE was unclear. Members suggested the Bureau to provide a detailed list of service items to help residents understand the related information more comprehensively;
- (v) Members mentioned that the KC DHCE had been in operation for some time and suggested the Bureau to give a preliminary report on the work progress over the past few years, along with concrete data and information to assess whether the effects of the related services met the expected targets and aligned with the needs of the community; and
- (vi) Members considered that the KC DHCE should make proper use and effective allocation of resources. Members also suggested that the activities organised should not be limited to the participation of

members only so that more residents in the district could benefit. Members would like the publicity and services to be optimised and made more user-friendly to facilitate easier access of the related services by members of the public.

39. **The representative of the HB** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) the planning of primary healthcare service facilities was made after taking into consideration of the needs of all 18 districts across the territory. The HB team allocated resources and established DHCs or DHCEs based on the actual situation such as data including the population structure and age distribution in each district at the time;
- (ii) the HB formulated territory-wide standards and policies for the use of Elderly Health Care Vouchers. The Primary Healthcare Commission had to align its implementation to these policies and was unable to adjust the content related to Elderly Health Care Vouchers on its own;
- (iii) the Bureau would continue to collect related data from the KC DHCE and report it to the HB. The related information could be supplemented later for Members' reference;
- (iv) the Bureau stated that the membership scheme was more comprehensive from a management perspective and encouraged residents of the district to register as members of the DHCE. DHCEs could serve the role of a coordinator for community primary healthcare services and a case manager, providing various types of services including chronic disease screening and management, family doctor pairing, health promotion, health risk factors assessment and community rehabilitation, etc.;
- (v) the Bureau acknowledged the demand for primary healthcare services by the DHCEs from residents of Kowloon City District. Plans to expand the DHCEs were underway. The Bureau would continue to plan and apply for resources to upgrade the DHCE to a DHC. Detailed arrangements would be announced in due course;

- (vi) various service points were set up under DHCEs and DHCs to expand and provide services to residents of different areas; and
- (vii) the Bureau stated that the Chronic Disease Co-Care Pilot Scheme would be expanded to include blood lipid testing in its scope of service, which would allow a more comprehensive assessment and proper management of cardiovascular disease risk factors including the “three highs” (i.e. high blood pressure, high blood sugar, and high blood lipids). Additionally, it was announced in January this year that women health services would be integrated into the district health network. The Bureau stated that corresponding resources would be allocated to various DHCEs and DHCs each time a new service was introduced.

40. **The Chairman** enquired about the schedule for upgrading the KC DHCE to a DHC.

41. **The representative of the HB** replied and stated that according to the meeting materials of the 14th meeting of the KCDC on 6 January 2022, the DHC in the Kowloon City District was planned to be established in Ho Man Tin Government Complex.

[Post-meeting note: The Secretariat forwarded the supplementary information from the HB to all Members for reference on 6 March 2025.]

Item 8

Any Other Business

42. No other items were raised by **Members**.

Item 9

Date of Next Meeting

60. **The Chairman** announced that the next meeting would be held at 2:30 p.m. on 25 March 2025 and the closing date for submission of papers would be 10 March 2025.

61. **The Chairman** announced the adjournment of the meeting at 3:50 p.m.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed on 25 March 2025.

The Chairman

The Secretary

KCDC Secretariat
February 2025