

**Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of
the Social Services, Housing and Development Planning Committee of
the Kowloon City District Council**

Date: 28 May 2024 (Tuesday)
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
Mr CHO Wui-hung, MH
Mr LEE Chiu-yu
Mr NG Fan-kam, MH
Dr Rizwan ULLAH, MH
Mr HE Huahan
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

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

In Attendance: Miss MAK Wai-man, Sandy Senior Liaison Officer (Building Management), Kowloon City District Office

Ms YAU Lai-shan, Carol	Assistant District Social Welfare Officer 2, Kowloon City & Yau Tsim Mong District, Social Welfare Department
Ms KWOK Sui-ki, Suki	Senior Engineer / 5 (East), Civil Engineering and Development Department
Ms AU Yue-yan, Vicki	Senior Town Planner / Kowloon 2, Planning Department
Mr CHAN Wai-wa	Senior Housing Manager / Kowloon West and Sai Kung 1, Housing Department

Attendance by Invitation:

Item 2	Ms LEE Wan-yee	Head of Care Coordinator, The Lok Sin Tong Benevolent Society, Kowloon
	Mr WONG Man-kit, Raymond	Registered Social Worker, The Lok Sin Tong Benevolent Society, Kowloon
Item 3	Ms YT LI	Senior Manager, Planning and Design, Urban Renewal Authority
	Mr Kenneth KWAN	Manager, Building Rehabilitation, Urban Renewal Authority
	Mr Stanley LAW	Senior Manager, Community Development, Urban Renewal Authority
Item 4	Ms YAN Sin-wah	Senior Manager, Community Development, Urban Renewal Authority
	Ms Agatha NG	Senior Manager, Acquisition and Clearance, Urban Renewal Authority
	Mr Lloyd CHAN	Senior Manager, Property and Land, Urban Renewal Authority

Items 5 to 6 Mr NG Chi-chiu

Divisional Officer (Kowloon
Central) (Acting), Fire Services
Department

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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 government departments to the third meeting of the SSHDPC.

2. **The Chairman** reminded Members to register their interests in accordance with Order 22 of the Kowloon City District Council Standing Orders (the Standing Orders) and stated that if the matters to be discussed had any connection or potential conflict of interests with their 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 shall be half of the total number of members of the committee. 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 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 an 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 mode to avoid causing disturbances.

Item 1

Confirmation of Minutes of the 2nd Meeting

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

Item 2

Introduction of Kowloon City District Health Centre Express and Chronic Disease Co-Care Pilot Scheme

(SSHDPC Paper No. 16/2024)

5. **The representative of the Lok Sin Tong Benevolent Society, Kowloon** (Lok Sin Tong) introduced Paper No. 16/2024 through presentation slides and supplemented as follows:

- (i) the District Health Centre (DHC) Express/ DHC were the locations for the Health Bureau (HHB) to implement primary care services in 18 districts across the territory. The DHC Express in Kowloon City District currently operated by the Lok Sin Tong was of an interim nature. A DHC would be established after a permanent site was confirmed;
- (ii) the service hours of the Kowloon City DHC Express were from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays and from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The extended opening hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays aimed to provide services to working people. Even though the DHC Express was closed on Sundays and public holidays, activities would also be organised on individual days in order to reach more residents in the district;
- (iii) Hong Kong residents could bring along their Hong Kong identity cards to DHC Expresses to register as members and activate their eHealth. The DHC Expresses would pair members up with family doctors, enabling members to receive one-stop personalised health services and professional advice;
- (iv) the Kowloon City DHC Express would provide chronic disease management services targeting diabetes mellitus, hypertension, low back pain and osteoarthritis of knee;
- (v) under the Chronic Disease Co-Care Pilot Scheme (CDCC Pilot Scheme), the Government would subsidise Hong Kong residents aged 45 or above who had not been diagnosed with diabetes mellitus or hypertension to receive screenings for diabetes mellitus and

hypertension. The public who were diagnosed with diabetes mellitus, hypertension or hyperglycaemia in the screenings would be arranged for follow-up consultations, follow-ups and medication collection at the clinics of the paired family doctors;

- (vi) family doctors were a key component of primary care services. Through an in-depth understanding of the physical conditions, medication patterns, lifestyle and exercise habits of the public, family doctors assisted the public to prevent and manage diseases holistically and continuously. Under the concept of “family doctor for all”, the public would receive treatment for mild diseases and management of chronic diseases in the community. Family doctors would monitor patients’ conditions and allow patients to receive early treatment if deterioration of conditions were found or complications were developed. The Government was strengthening the concept of “family doctor for all”, which could not only enhance the protection of public health, but also alleviate the pressure on public hospitals;
- (vii) under the “Life Course Preventive Care Plan”, the Government provided suggestions on lifestyle and health for the public of different ages and genders, such as recommending the public of a certain age group to receive preventive vaccinations and cancer screenings; and
- (viii) the Kowloon City DHC Express planned to step up the promotion of dental-related services in the district. The DHC Express also anticipated to collaborate with Members and Care Teams to visit different areas in the district to promote the CDCC Pilot Scheme and other health information.

6. **Members** expressed thanks to the Lok Sin Tong’s introduction and raised the following views and enquiries:

- (i) Members anticipated that Care Teams and the Kowloon City DHC Express to strengthen communication and collaboration so as to allow the penetration of related services and publicity work to every corner of Kowloon City District;
- (ii) since the public lacked understanding on the related services and details, Members suggested stepping up the publicity work and

organising talks, including affixing posters in three-nil buildings and collaborating with owners' corporations and management companies;

- (iii) Members stated that dental services were very well-received by the public in the district. Therefore, Members enquired if the relevant services would only be provided to members and if appointments were required;
- (iv) Members suggested the Lok Sin Tong to distribute regularly the information on the services and activities to Members so that Members could assist in sharing and promotion;
- (v) Members enquired about the details of outreach services such as if escort services, psychological counselling and home-based services for diagnosis were available, as well as if equipment such as stair climbers would be lent out;
- (vi) Members enquired about the details of patients collecting medications under the CDCC Pilot Scheme; and
- (vii) Members enquired if the public must visit the DHC Express in person to register as members and if the services at different service points varied.

7. **The representative of the Lok Sin Tong** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) the DHC Express did not set any threshold for membership registration. The public could bring along their Hong Kong identity cards and register as members for free by visiting in person the Core Centre of the DHC Express (G/F, Bayview, 9 Yuk Yat Street, To Kwa Wan) or Service Point 1 (Unit A and B, 10/F, Chasegold Tower, 100 Ma Tau Wai Road, Hung Hom). The public could also visit other Service Points to enquire about the information of the DHC Express;
- (ii) the public could make appointments for membership registration and attending health risk assessments at the DHC Express. Those who did not make appointments could also wait for the services on the spot but might be required to wait for a longer time;

- (iii) the outreach teams aimed to promote the services rendered by the DHC Express. Therefore, its services mainly included visiting the community to carry out service promotion and assisting the public to register as members on the spot, conduct health risk assessments and register to participate in the CDCC Pilot Scheme. The DHC Express also offered home-based services, which mainly conducting health risk assessments and health education for elders who had less contact with the community and assisting them in arranging the services required. Since the work focuses of the DHC Express were health promotion and disease prevention, the outreach teams or home-based services did not offer escort services and arrange the lending of equipment such as stair climbers;
- (iv) the patients participating in the CDCC Pilot Scheme could visit the clinics of the paired family doctors for follow-up consultations and medication collection. The appointment method was subject to the decision of the clinics of the family doctors. Under the Scheme, the patients' average waiting time for follow-up consultations and medication collection would be shorter than that at public hospitals;
- (v) the DHC Express would disseminate the information on the services and activities to members via WhatsApp. The DHC Express was also willing to send staff to Members' offices to carry out publicity work and invite Members to visit the DHC Express and Service Points to get a grasp of the services rendered at relevant locations; and
- (vi) to echo the "Quit in June" launched by the Government, the DHC Express would offer smoking cessation services in June 2024. The content of the services included the distribution of smoking cessation drugs trial packs, as well as the provision of cessation counselling, follow-up and referral services. The Lok Sin Tong would like to establish connections with Members so that they could assist in disseminating the relevant information to the people in the district.

Item 3**Request for Reactivating the Redevelopment Study for 13 Streets in To Kwa Wan and Expediting the Progress of Redevelopment by the Urban Renewal Authority**

(SSHDPC Paper No. 17/2024)

8. **A Member** introduced Paper No. 17/2024.
9. **The Chairman** invited Members to refer to the written reply furnished by the Urban Renewal Authority (URA), i.e. Document No. 8 tabled.
10. **The representative of the URA** replied with the main points as follow:
 - (i) the URA understood the concerns of Members and residents about the redevelopment of 13 Streets. In mid-May 2024, the URA met with the residents and the Development Bureau on the relevant matter. The residents' views included the request for expediting the pace of redevelopment of 13 Streets as well as the enquiries about the timetable for redevelopment, the conditions of the buildings in 13 Streets and the support that the URA could provide in building rehabilitation. The URA would continue to maintain communication with the residents; and
 - (ii) as the development scheme involved matters such as acquisition and compensation, it had to be kept confidential before the commencement of the redevelopment project. Details would be announced and gazetted by the URA upon commencement of the redevelopment project.
11. **The Chairman** stated that residents had been calling for the redevelopment of 13 streets as early as the days of the Land Development Corporation, the predecessor of the URA. He urged the URA to commence the redevelopment project of 13 Streets at the soonest.

Item 4**Expression of Views on the Acquisition Price of the Nga Tsin Wai Road/Carpenter Road Project**

(SSHDPC Paper No. 18/2024)

12. **A Member** introduced Paper No. 18/2024 and stated that a letter was received from the related concern group prior to the meeting was held. The contents included:

- (i) queried the time for issuing the acquisition offers (offers) by the URA and the point in time and location of the data adopted in the valuation;
- (ii) enquired about the feasibility of carrying out revaluation as well as making offers again;
- (iii) requested for enhancing the compensation package;
- (iv) expressed dissatisfaction with the offer difference between owner-occupiers and owners of tenanted flats as well as requested the URA to explain the relevant mechanism; and
- (v) enquired about the compensation package for rooftop and podium areas.

13. **The Chairman** invited Members to refer to the written reply furnished by the URA, i.e. Document No. 5 tabled.

14. **Members** raised the following views and enquires:

- (i) the seven professional registered general practice surveyor firms appointed had adopted data from To Kwa Wan and San Po Kong areas in their valuation. Since the value of the school net where the aforementioned areas belonged was much lower than that of the school nets of Kowloon City District (School Net No. 34 and School Net No. 41), the offer made by the URA based on relevant data was lower than the expected price of the public. Members enquired about the reason for the Authority to select the aforementioned surveyor firms, the details and reasons for adopting the data and the definition of “the same locality” in the relevant guidelines;

- (ii) Members opined that the time URA made the offer was about half a year later than normal and that the property prices at the point in time of offers were also much lower than the freezing survey. Members enquired about the reason for the Authority in delaying the offers;
- (iii) according to the URA's information, owners could appoint general practice surveyors to provide assistance if they were not satisfied with the offers. Members enquired whether there were successful cases of raising the acquisition price based on the aforementioned approach, whether there was a mechanism for the Authority to make offers again, as well as about the details of the compensation package when the Lands Resumption Ordinance was invoked;
- (iv) the URA had formulated and adopted the "compensation mechanism based on a seven-year-old flat" since 2001. No amendments were made in the light of the actual circumstances over the years and it was now outdated. Members suggested to take into consideration factors such as facilities in the area and school nets in the valuation;
- (v) the URA had, in the light of the actual circumstances, introduced measures welcomed by the public such as preserving the Chiu Chow and Thai characteristics, the "joint property management" mode and large-scale redevelopment projects. Members requested the Authority to follow good advice readily, review the relevant valuation and make offers again; and
- (vi) Members considered that the URA's offer to owners of tenanted properties was much lower than that to owner-occupiers. It was even impossible to purchase flats in buildings with lifts in the same locality, thus some owners were unable to arrange local rehousing.

15. **The representative of the URA** thanked the Kowloon City District Council (KCDC) for its views and for inviting the URA representatives to attend the meeting and explain relevant policies. The representative of the URA replied as follows:

- (i) the timing of the URA's offers was affected by various factors such as project scale, district characteristics, project features, affected property interests and the number of households. However, the URA would not determine the time to make the offers based on the

state of the property market. As the scale of KC-017 Project was relatively large which involved more than 1 000 property interests, 1 200 households and more than 100 operators of ground floor shops, it took time for the URA to handle the relevant preliminary work, including communication with operators of small on-street shops with local characteristic in the area, so as to formulate relocation arrangements that preserved the local characteristics;

- (ii) the URA's compensation mechanism for home ownership based on "a seven-year-old flat" was formulated with reference to the "Home Purchase Allowance and Ex gratia Allowance for Owners and Legal Occupiers of Commercial Properties" (Acquisition Principles) passed by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council in 2001, that was owner-occupiers could obtain the market value (assessed on vacant possession basis) of their property plus the Home Purchase Allowance (HPA), while owners of tenanted properties could obtain the market value (assessed on vacant possession basis) of their property plus a Supplementary Allowance which was a certain percentage of the HPA;
- (iii) the URA had made an offer on 30 April 2024 to acquire the property interests of KC-017 Project through private negotiation. Before invoking the Lands Resumption Ordinance, the URA would consider issuing the updated offers to owners who had not yet sold their property having regard to market conditions. The relevant prices would be calculated based on the new valuation date and might go up and down. It should be noted that the amount of incidental cost allowance that owners could obtain by then would be reduced. If the Government eventually resumed the land under the Lands Resumption Ordinance, the market value of the relevant property and the amount of applicable allowance under the compensation package would be calculated based on the valuation on the date of land reversion as well as the aforementioned Acquisition Principles;
- (iv) in determining the price per square foot of a "notional replacement flat", the URA would, in accordance with the existing mechanism, appoint seven professional registered general practice surveyor firms through open ballot to carry out independent valuation. The valuation guidelines for assessing the "notional replacement flat"

were formulated with reference to “Land Resumption and Compensation in the Urban Area - Guidelines for Owners, Occupiers and Surveyors” compiled and issued by the Lands Department. The seven independent consultancies gathered and analysed property transaction cases similar to and in the nearby areas of the project in terms of property characteristics and accessibility to public transport in order to assess the price per square foot for the seven-year-old “notional replacement flat” in the same locality;

- (v) as for the matter on independent valuation of KC-017 Project, the seven surveyor firms appointed would gather and analyse transaction cases of comparable properties in the nearby areas of the project. As there were only a few related transaction cases within Lung Shing area in the past 12 months as at the valuation date (12 April 2024) and some of the cases did not meet the comparability requirements, the surveyor firms broadened their scope of data collection to include cases in the nearby areas of the project into consideration and carried out analysis on the locations of the relevant cases (including school nets). The surveyor firms then made adjustments to assess the price per square foot for the “notional replacement flat” in accordance with various factors such as the date of transaction, age, orientation, floor, property quality, area, accessibility to public transport and environment of the flat;
- (vi) the Paper mentioned a property transaction case of Genius Court. After searching the information in the Land Register and the sales brochure, apart from a unit of 445 square feet, the transaction also included a podium of about 800 square feet. Therefore, the relevant transaction belonged to a transaction case involving a special unit. The Paper also mentioned a property transaction case at High Place. The case was a studio flat of 182 square feet. As the unit was relatively small in area, the price per square foot would be much higher than that of apartments in general. In carrying out the valuation, the surveyor firms would consider all property transaction cases as far as possible rather than only focus on individual cases;
- (vii) the URA would select through open ballot seven independent consultancies from the “Consultancy List of General Practice Surveying of the URA” which were interested in participating in the

valuation of the project. The URA would also invite representatives of the independent consultancy, representatives of the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors and district representatives such as district councillors to attend and witness the open balloting process together; and

- (viii) the surveyors appointed by the URA would gather and analyse comparable cases in assessing the market value of the property. If the property area contained podium or rooftop which was included in the assignment of the property, their value would also be included. If individual owners needed to consult professional advice on the market value of their properties (but excluding any ex-gratia allowances) and the calculation of the property area (such as rooftops and podiums), they might hire registered general practice surveyors with professional qualifications to offer assistance.

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

- (i) in January 2024, there was a property transaction case of a flat at 1 Lion Rock Road with an area of about 300 square feet and the price per square foot was about \$18,000. On 10 April 2024, there was a property transaction case of a flat at Hau Wong Road with an area of about 300 square feet and the price per square foot was about \$17,000. On 11 April 2024, there was also a property transaction case of a flat at 18 Junction Road with an area of about 500 square feet and the price per square foot was about \$19,000. Members stated that the buildings in the aforementioned cases were over seven years old and their prices per square foot were higher than the offers of the Authority. Therefore, Members enquired about the reason for the surveyor firms not adopting the relevant data; and
- (ii) in the event that the Government resumed the land by invoking the Lands Resumption Ordinance and the relevant price was higher than the URA's offer, Members enquired whether the relevant offer would affect owners who had signed contracts prior to the invocation of the Ordinance.

17. **The representative of the URA** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) the appointed surveyor firms had to assess the price per square foot of the notional replacement flat in accordance with the established mechanism and related guidelines and refer to all related information gathered. The public could visit the URA's Mong Kok Office to refer to the relevant valuation reports; and
- (ii) if the Government resumed the land by invoking the Lands Resumption Ordinance, it would only make an offer to the owners who had yet to sell their property by then. Its price would be calculated based on the valuation on the date of land reversion, which might go up or down. The relevant offer would not affect owners who had signed contracts prior to the invocation of the Ordinance.

18. **The Chairman** opined that the URA should try its best to allay residents' concerns. Therefore, he would like the Authority to maintain negotiation with residents on property acquisition matters.

Item 5

Call for Departments to Step up Enforcement Actions to Curb Unlicensed Guesthouses

(SSHDPC Paper No. 19/2024)

19. **A Member** introduced Paper No. 19/2024.

20. **The Chairman** invited Members to refer to the written replies furnished by the Fire Services Department (FSD) and the Home Affairs Department (HAD), i.e. No. 4 and 6 tabled.

21. **The representative of the FSD** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) after the No. 3 alarm fire at New Lucky House, the FSD had immediately scrutinised buildings of the same type and discovered about 230 old buildings with licensed guesthouses across the territory still failed to meet the current requirements on fire service installations and equipment. The related buildings of the same type were mainly distributed in Yau Tsim Mong District, Wan Chai District and Sham Shui Po District, while Kowloon City District only

accounted for about 3%;

- (ii) among the buildings of the same type, common fire hazards were mostly human factors, such as: (a) floating obstructions to means of escape; (b) fire service installations or equipment were not kept in efficient working order or being obstructed or lacked annual maintenance; (c) defective lobby doors or lobby doors being removed; and (d) locked exits;
- (iii) to further strengthen inspection efforts, the FSD had immediately, in accordance with the risk assessment on the buildings, stepped up proactive inspections and taken appropriate enforcement actions to tackle fire hazards in buildings, targeting at old buildings with higher risks, such as buildings with premises that held guesthouse licences, of higher age, without fire service installations and equipment, with a single-staircase design as well as “three-nil buildings”;
- (iv) the FSD would review the effectiveness of the relevant enforcement in a timely manner, consider regularising the related work in the light of actual needs and circumstances and seek additional resources through the existing resource allocation mechanism when necessary to further strengthen the work in this regard; and
- (v) the FSD would continue to organise different types of fire safety education activities in the district, including fire safety carnivals, fire protection publicity in housing estates, visits to fire stations, fire safety talks, fire drill and distribution of the “three treasures for fire prevention” (fire extinguishers, fire blankets and stand-alone fire detectors). Fire prevention education and publicity would also be made through platforms such as social media, mobile applications, various training courses as well as TV Announcements in the Public Interest and advertisements. The FSD would also continue to collaborate with the Fire Safety Ambassador Honorary Presidents’ Association of Kowloon City District and the Fire Safety Ambassadors to fully support the various fire safety education activities organised by the District Fire Safety Committee (Kowloon City District) (the Fire Safety Committee), with a view to enhancing the fire safety awareness of the residents of as well as the fire safety standards of buildings in Kowloon City District, and thus offering

better protection for the lives and properties of the residents in the district.

22. **The Chairman** made a conclusion and requested the FSD to continue to combat unlicensed guesthouses to prevent recurrence of fire.

Item 6

Request for Implementing an Education Programme to Enhance the Fire Safety Awareness of Ethnic Minorities

(SSHDPC Paper No. 20/2024)

23. **A Member** introduced Paper No. 20/2024.
24. **The Chairman** invited Members to refer to the written replies furnished by the FSD and the Kowloon City District Office (KCDO), i.e. Document No. 3 and 7 tabled.
25. **Members** raised the following views and enquiries:
- (i) some ethnic minorities would live in transitional housing temporarily while waiting for the Government's allocation of public housing units. Members suggested the related departments to pay attention to the relevant situation when implementing fire prevention education to ensure that the education activities could cover the new occupants;
 - (ii) Members suggested the FSD to provide fire safety information and pamphlets in Pakistani (Urdu) and an enquiry hotline in such language as well as invite the ethnic minorities or ethnic minorities groups to visit the FSD, with the focus of enhancing their awareness of fire prevention;
 - (iii) Members enquired about the campaign details for distributing the "three treasures for fire prevention" in Kowloon City District and requested the Department to announce the relevant information as soon as possible. In addition, as there were more grassroots and ethnic minority families in Hung Hom area, Members suggested to allocate more resources to distribute the "three treasures for fire prevention" to the people in the area; and

- (iv) Members noted that the Fire Safety Committee had carried out fire prevention publicity work targeting at the ethnic minorities but lacked channels to convey more up-to-date messages to relevant persons in a timely manner. Members suggested to send the discussion contents of this item to the Fire Safety Committee for their reference. Members also suggested the Fire Safety Committee to strengthen communication with the ethnic minority groups in the district so that the relevant groups could assist in publicity.

26. **The representative of the KCDO** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) the Office and the Fire Safety Committee had been committed to promoting fire safety culture in the Kowloon City District, strengthening management bodies of buildings and enhancing fire prevention awareness of the public. The Fire Safety Committee had been organising diversified activities in the past, including organising publicity and education activities in 2021 and 2022 to distribute fire prevention information pamphlets and publicity souvenirs printed in Chinese, English, Tagalog, Bahasa Indonesia and Thai to foreign domestic helpers, ethnic minorities and residents of three-nil buildings in the district, with a view to promoting fire safety and enhancing the residents' awareness of fire prevention. The Fire Safety Committee would continue to consider the relevant direction of the activity when planning activities in future;
- (ii) four district councillors of this district were members of the Fire Safety Committee in the current term. The Office believed that the District Council and the Fire Safety Committee could work together in carrying out fire prevention work in Kowloon City District properly; and
- (iii) the fire safety information pamphlets distributed by the Fire Safety Committee mainly came from the FSD. The fire safety information pamphlets published by the FSD had been translated into eight languages including Urdu.

27. **The representative of the FSD** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) the FSD had been actively recruited ethnic minorities as fire services members. There were currently nine ethnic minorities as fire services members in the Kowloon Command. The FSD would arrange their posting according to the dialects they were more conversant with, including posting a fire services member who was more conversant with Thai to the Ma Tau Chung Fire Station and posting South Asians fire services members to Tsim Sha Tsui Fire Station and Mongkok Fire Station. The FSD hoped that this could further enhance the assistance to ethnic minority groups in the district as well as facilitate the organisation and arrangement of district education work on community emergency preparedness and fire safety;
- (ii) the FSD had translated the relevant publicity pamphlets, namely the “Fire Prevention in the Home - Safety Guideline” and the “Fire Escape”, into eight languages, among which included Thai and Urdu; and
- (iii) the FSD was distributing the “three treasures for fire prevention” across 18 districts in Hong Kong. The distribution campaign in Kowloon City District had already commenced.

28. **The Chairman** made a conclusion and instructed the Secretariat to send the discussion contents of this item to the Fire Safety Committee.

[Post-meeting note: The Secretariat wrote to the District Fire Safety Committee (Kowloon City) on 11 July 2024.]

Item 7

Concern over the Needs of Elders in Kowloon City District to Enhance Public Dental Services

(SSHDPC Paper No. 21/2024)

29. **A Member** introduced Paper No. 21/2024.

30. **The Chairman** stated that the HHB and the Department of Health (DH) did not send representatives to attend this meeting. He invited Members to refer to the

written reply furnished by the related department, i.e. Document No. 1 tabled.

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

- (i) the written reply mentioned that the DH would, with effective from 4 July 2024, adjust the time of “preliminary registration” for general public dental services from 0:00 a.m. on the day of the service to 8:00 p.m. on the preceding day. Some Members expressed appreciation to the readiness of the related departments to follow good advice, while some Members opined that the time after adjustment would affect the dinner arrangements for elders and suggested to adjust the time to daytime prior to one day of receiving the service;
- (ii) the Government earlier included five medical institutions providing dental services in the Elderly Health Care Voucher Greater Bay Area Pilot Scheme. As the aforementioned institutions were mainly located in Shenzhen, Members suggested to include medical institutions in other cities in the Greater Bay Area in the Scheme; and
- (iii) Members opined that the written reply could not fully respond to the suggestion of providing mobile dental clinics. Therefore, Members requested the Secretariat to relay this to the relevant departments after the meeting and urge the departments to send representatives to attend meetings in the future to respond to Members’ views and enquiries.

32. **The Chairman** made a conclusion and instructed the Secretariat to contact the related departments for follow-up after the meeting.

[Post-meeting note: The Secretariat had wrote to the HHB and the DH on 11 July 2024.]

Item 8

Proposal to Foster and Strengthen Collaboration between Social Welfare Organisations and Sports Organisations in Kowloon City District in a Bid to Jointly Assist People in Need of Emotional and Community Support

(SSHDPC Paper No. 22/2024)

33. **A Member** introduced Paper No. 22/2024.

34. **The Chairman** invited Members to refer to the written reply furnished by the Social Welfare Department (SWD), i.e. Document No. 2 tabled.

35. **The representative of the SWD** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) the Government had all along been concerned about persons with mental health needs and provided one-stop services for persons in need who aged 15 or above through the Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness (ICCMW) subsidised by the SWD. For example, the “Vitality Place” of the SideBySide provided integrated community centre services for Kowloon City District. The scope of service included drop-in services, outreaching services, casework counselling, therapeutic and supportive group work services, social and recreational activities, day training;
- (ii) apart from integrated community centre, other service units receiving subsidies from the SWD, including Integrated Family Service Centres, Elderly Centres as well as Integrated Children and Youth Services Centres in the district, also provided activities to promote mental health to their service recipients; and
- (iii) the SWD had been encouraging cross-sectoral and cross-service collaboration in the provision of more services in districts. If Members had related resources, the SWD could assist in liaison and sharing them with other stakeholders and service providers.

Item 9

Any Other Business

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

Item 10

Date of Next Meeting

37. **The Chairman** announced that the next meeting would be held at 2:30 p.m. on 1 August 2024 and the closing date for submission of papers would be 17 July 2024.

38. **The Chairman** announced the adjournment of the meeting at 4:17 p.m.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed on 1 August 2024.

The Chairman

The Secretary

KCDC Secretariat
August 2024