

Sai Kung District Council
Minutes of the Third Meeting in 2024

Date: 7 May 2024 (Tuesday)
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Venue: Conference Room of the Sai Kung District Council

Present

Miss MA King-fan, Kathy, JP (Chairman)	District Officer (Sai Kung), Sai Kung District Office
Ms FONG Kwok-shan, Christine	Member of Sai Kung District Council
Mr WANG Wen	Member of Sai Kung District Council
Mr WONG Shui-sang	Member of Sai Kung District Council
Mr LI Tin-chi	Member of Sai Kung District Council
Mr LI Ka-leung, Philip, MH	Member of Sai Kung District Council
Ms LI Ka-yan	Member of Sai Kung District Council
Mr CHAU Ka-lok	Member of Sai Kung District Council
Mr LAM Chun-ka	Member of Sai Kung District Council
Ms KI Lai-mei, MH	Member of Sai Kung District Council
Mr YAU Siu-hung, Kelvin, MH	Member of Sai Kung District Council
Mr YAU Ho-lun	Member of Sai Kung District Council
Ms YU Natasha	Member of Sai Kung District Council
Ms SZE Pan-pan	Member of Sai Kung District Council
Ms WU Suet-lin	Member of Sai Kung District Council
Mr CHEUNG Mei-hung, Chris	Member of Sai Kung District Council
Mr CHEUNG Chin-pang	Member of Sai Kung District Council
Mr CHEUNG Man-tim	Member of Sai Kung District Council
Mr CHONG Yuen-tung, MH	Member of Sai Kung District Council
Ms CHONG Nga-ting, Angel	Member of Sai Kung District Council
Mr CHAN Chi-ho	Member of Sai Kung District Council
Mr CHAN Kin-chun, Ken	Member of Sai Kung District Council
Mr CHAN Kwong-fai	Member of Sai Kung District Council
Mr CHAN Kai-wai	Member of Sai Kung District Council
Mr CHAN Kuen-kwan, MH	Member of Sai Kung District Council
Mr TSANG Kwok-ka	Member of Sai Kung District Council
Mr WAN Kai-ming	Member of Sai Kung District Council
Mr WONG Wang-to, MH	Member of Sai Kung District Council
Mr WONG Yuen-hong	Member of Sai Kung District Council
Ms KAN Tung-tung	Member of Sai Kung District Council
Mr LAU Kai-hong	Member of Sai Kung District Council
Mr CHENG Yu-hei	Member of Sai Kung District Council
Ms TAM Chuk-kwan	Member of Sai Kung District Council
Mr CHUNG Kai-yin (Secretary)	Senior Executive Officer (District Council), Sai Kung District Office

In Attendance

Miss LAM I-ching	Assistant District Officer (Sai Kung)1, Sai Kung District Office
Miss CHENG Suet-ching, Lacus	Assistant District Officer (Sai Kung)2, Sai Kung District Office
Mr CHENG Chi-wing, Ken	Senior Liaison Officer (1), Sai Kung District Office
Ms LAM Yee-mang, Dawn	Senior Liaison Officer (2), Sai Kung District Office
Mr NG Wai-ming	Senior Liaison Officer (3), Sai Kung District Office
Miss WONG Chui-ying, Erin	Executive Officer I (District Council), Sai Kung District Office
Miss TSOI Sze-sze, Ceci	Executive Officer (District Management), Sai Kung District Office
Mr KWONG Wang-ngai, Walter	District Planning Officer/Sai Kung & Islands, Planning Department
Mr NG Wai-lung, David	District Social Welfare Officer (Wong Tai Sin/ Sai Kung), Social Welfare Department
Mr YEUNG Chun-po, Carmelo	District Commander (Wong Tai Sin), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr MAK Man-yu	District Commander (Tseung Kwan O), Hong Kong Police Force
Ms WAI Kar-yan, Maria	Divisional Commander (Sai Kung), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr TING Ka-ho, Louis	Police Community Relations Officer (Tseung Kwan O), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr CHAN Kwong-hei	Detective Senior Inspector OC, District Crime Squad Team 2 (Tseung Kwan O), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr WONG Ka-lun, Brandon	Police Community Relations Officer (Wong Tai Sin) (Acting), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr NG Chou-keen, Horace	Chief Engineer/East 1, Civil Engineering and Development Department
Mr YEUNG Wong-pan	Senior Property Service Manager/Kowloon West & Sai Kung, Housing Department
Miss SIN Kai-wai, Marie	Chief Transport Officer/Sai Kung & North, Transport Department
Ms LEE Lai-sheung, Susan	District Leisure Manager (Sai Kung), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms LAI Ka-yee, Jenny	Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Sai Kung, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms LAI Wing-sau	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Sai Kung), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Ms CHOW Yuk-chu	Chief Health Inspector (Sai Kung)1, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Mr HO Yiu-ming	Chief Health Inspector (Sai Kung)2, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	
Mr MAK Hon-sum, Ronnie	District Lands Officer/Sai Kung, District Lands Office, Sai Kung	
Mr CHOW Kin-keung	Administrative Assistant/Lands, District Lands Office, Sai Kung	
Mr Jamie FUNG	Regional Officer/Kowloon East/Sai Kung, Independent Commission Against Corruption	for agenda item II(A)
Ms Jan LI	Senior Community Relations Officer, Independent Commission Against Corruption	
Mr CHUNG Wing-hong, John	Deputy Project Manager (East), East Development Office, Civil Engineering and Development Department	for agenda item II(B)
Mr LEE Ming-keung, Marco	Chief Engineer/East 2, East Development Office, Civil Engineering and Development Department	
Mr YIP Wai-choi, James	Senior Engineer/6 (East), East Development Office, Civil Engineering and Development Department	
Mr LEUNG Siu-sun, Philip	Director, Earthasia Limited	
Mr TAM Chi-kuen, Caspar	Project Manager, Earthasia Limited	
Mr YIM Tak-yiu	Senior Maintenance Engineer/South East, Highways Department	for agenda item VI(C)
Mr TSANG Hing-fai	Maintenance Engineer/Slopes (East), Highways Department	
Mr MOK Cheuk-wah	Senior Engineer/Mainland South 6, Drainage Services Department	

The Chairman said a quorum was present and the meeting commenced officially.

2. The Chairman welcomed all Members and attendees to the meeting, in particular:

- Mr YEUNG Wong-pan, Senior Property Service Manager/Kowloon West & Sai Kung, who attended the meeting on behalf of Ms MAK Siu-ling, Iris, Chief Manager/Kowloon West & Sai Kung; and
- Ms CHOW Yuk-chu, Chief Health Inspector (Sai Kung)1, who succeeded Ms HO Sau-ying on transfer.

I. Confirmation of Minutes of the Second Meeting of Sai Kung District Council (SKDC) held on 5 March 2024

3. The Chairman noted that the Secretariat had not received any proposed amendment before the meeting. There being no proposed amendment at the meeting, the Chairman declared that the above minutes were confirmed.

II. New Items

(A) Work Plan 2024/25 of ICAC Regional Office (Kowloon East/Sai Kung)
(SKDC(M) Paper No. 34/24)

4. The Chairman welcomed the following representatives to the meeting:

Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC)

- Mr Jamie FUNG, Regional Officer/Kowloon East/Sai Kung; and
- Ms Jan LI, Senior Community Relations Officer.

5. The Chairman said the representatives of ICAC were here at SKDC today to introduce to Members the work strategies 2024/25 of ICAC Regional Office (Kowloon East/Sai Kung), and to invite SKDC to be one of the supporting organisations for “Fighting Corruption: The Mission Continues” Sai Kung District Integrity Project 2024/25. She asked the representatives of ICAC to brief Members on the paper.

6. Mr Jamie FUNG, Regional Officer/Kowloon East/Sai Kung, ICAC introduced the work strategies 2024/25 with presentation slides.

7. Mr WONG Yuen-hong asked whether ICAC would organise publicity and educational activities on “preventing corruption” specifically for owners’ corporations and district organisations that held large-scale events. Moreover, he said that the promotion of “combating corruption” was equally important, so he suggested that ICAC should step up efforts in the publicity and education for encouraging the reports of corruption, such as providing information of reporting channels, procedures and evidence needed to lodge a report.

8. Ms Christine FONG said that cases of bid-rigging occurred not only in some districts, but also throughout the territory. Recently, suspected cases of false proxy instruments were reported at the general meeting of the Incorporated Owners of Tsui Lam Estate. To her understanding, the relevant law enforcement agency had arrested the persons involved, and she hoped that ICAC would educate the public using such case as an example. The use of false proxy instruments was preposterous, but she understood that the Sai Kung District Office (SKDO) had done relevant coordination work to the best of its ability. Nevertheless, she hoped that ICAC would display further efforts in this regard.

9. Mr Jamie FUNG of ICAC responded to Members’ views as summarised below:

- ICAC would render support for all local organisations, such as corporations or building management organisations, to hold anti-corruption activities. For instance, ICAC would provide giveaway items, while other resources such as display boards and game stalls were also available for borrowing.
- Since its founding, ICAC had always attached great importance to encouraging the public to report corruption on their own initiative. The

recent new street display boards and the resources for district activities mentioned above also included messages to encourage the public to report corruption.

- Full evidence was not required when lodging a corruption complaint. Complainants only needed to state what they knew about the suspected corruption cases, and ICAC would follow up in accordance with the law.
- ICAC would treat all corruption complaints equally and fairly. If members of the public suspected that corruption was involved in matters in respect of building or property management, they could report the cases to ICAC. If they suspected that other types of crimes were involved, they should report the cases to the respective law enforcement agencies.
- At present, there was a collaboration mechanism to facilitate exchange of information on different cases between ICAC and various law enforcement agencies as well as organisations such as the Competition Commission.
- ICAC had mounted an operation codenamed “Fire Net” last year in which 23 persons were charged and the works contracts involved amounted to about \$520 million. ICAC hoped that the operation would encourage the public to contact the ICAC at 2526 6366 if they had any suspicions or enquiries. The contact information was also available on ICAC’s website.

10. Mr CHAN Kai-wai noticed that ICAC had organised an event in celebration of its 50th anniversary at West Kowloon Cultural District earlier. He hoped that ICAC would invite SKDC Members to its events in the future more often, and suggested that the Care Teams might utilise both their own and ICAC’s resources to organise activities. Besides, he suggested that the Home Affairs Department should amend the Building Management Ordinance (Cap. 344) to mandate the declarations of interests and secrecy by members of a corporation, in a bid to lower the chance of bid-rigging. He also proposed that ICAC should amend the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance such that the provision concerning “one’s official capacity not being commensurate with one’s income” would be also applicable to District Council members.

11. Mr Jamie FUNG of ICAC responded to Members’ views as summarised below:

- Relevant government departments would consult ICAC about legislative amendments in relation to its work, and it would offer advice as appropriate.
- The Care Teams were welcome to co-organise activities with ICAC. In addition to the loan of materials/equipment, ICAC could arrange for members of the ICAC Club to participate in the community volunteer services led by the Care Teams.

12. There being no objection from Members, the Chairman declared that SKDC would be a supporting organisation for “Fighting Corruption: The Mission Continues” Sai Kung District Integrity Project 2024/25.

- (B) “Sai Kung Promenade Enhancement Works Progress Report” of the Civil Engineering and Development Department
(SKDC(M) Paper No. 35/24)

13. The Chairman welcomed the following representatives to the meeting:

East Development Office of the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD)

- Mr John CHUNG, Deputy Project Manager (East);
- Mr Marco LEE, Chief Engineer/East 2; and
- Mr James YIP, Senior Engineer/6 (East).

Earthasia Limited

- Mr Philip LEUNG, Director; and
- Mr Caspar TAM, Project Manager.

14. Mr James YIP, Senior Engineer/6 (East), East Development Office, CEDD introduced the progress of the project with presentation slides.

15. Mr John CHUNG, Deputy Project Manager (East), East Development Office, CEDD added that the enhancement works would reconstruct the footpaths with new paving blocks to bring out the features of the design. The existing trees and planters would be rearranged to provide more space for the public and tourists and to beautify the environment. In addition, CEDD would maintain close communication with members of the local community throughout the construction period. To minimise the impact of the project on the nearby business operators and the public, CEDD would implement special arrangements to carry out the enhancement works at both ends of the waterfront promenade first. The purpose of such arrangements was to avoid conducting works around the piers during summer in July and October when there would be a high pedestrian flow. Lastly, to better meet the public's needs and promote environmental protection, water dispensers would be provided at sections of the waterfront promenade with high pedestrian traffic for the convenience of the public.

16. The Chairman expressed her gratitude to CEDD for listening to the views of SKDO and members of the local community on the enhancement works. The details of the project were different from what CEDD reported two years ago, which was mainly because the works schedule was adjusted to minimise the impact on the public during the holidays of the anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the Motherland in July and the National Day in October.

17. Mr CHAN Kuen-kwan said that waves would surge onto the waterfront promenade during the typhoon season. Therefore, he said the footpath paving works should be carried out with special caution, and it was necessary to ensure that the paving blocks were laid securely. Besides, he noted that some existing sections appeared to have uneven surfaces when raining, and hoped that CEDD would follow up the matter.

18. Mr Philip LI agreed with the relevant works arrangements during the holidays of the anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the Motherland and the National Day. However, the construction site for Stage 4 of the enhancement works was where the dragon boat race would take place. This festive event might be affected if the Stage 4 works would not be completed until the second quarter of next year. Moreover, the construction period for Stage 5 would be between the second quarter and the fourth quarter of next year, which would overlap with the travel peak season and might affect pier users. He suggested that CEDD should consider swapping the construction periods for the Stage 4 and Stage 5 works.

19. Mr Ken CHAN agreed that the waterfront promenade would be more spacious after the removal of small trees. Yet, as there were currently quite many benches next to the small trees serving as rest areas for the public, he worried that these sitting-out facilities would be removed together with the small trees. He hoped that CEDD would consider keeping these benches or placing them at other appropriate locations.

20. Mr YAU Ho-lun said that the waterfront promenade, especially the part near tennis courts, lacked sufficient lighting at night. He suggested that CEDD should make appropriate adjustments in the future.

21. Mr LI Tin-chi said there were dense trees at the construction site for the Stage 1 works. As those trees were home to a large number of birds, the benches under them were often stained with bird droppings. He suggested that CEDD should come up with solutions to this issue.

22. Mr John CHUNG of CEDD responded to Members' views as summarised below:

- CEDD would study Members' suggestions on the provision of benches. Indeed, benches would be provided at different stages of the works, and there would not be fewer sitting-out facilities after completion of works.
- The department could study the number of street lamps to be provided at Stage 3. However, the said section of the waterfront promenade was quite deserted at night. The problem of light pollution should also be considered when deciding on the number of street lamps.
- Regarding the proposed swap of the construction periods for the Stage 4 and Stage 5 works, the overall direction of CEDD was to complete the works as soon as practicable to minimise the impact on the public. CEDD's preliminary plan was to advance the Stage 3 works to the middle of the third quarter this year, so that the Stage 4 and Stage 5 works could commence earlier. Such arrangements could also allow the department to allocate sufficient time to carry out reinstatement works before the peak season. CEDD welcomed the views expressed by SKDC.

23. Mr CHAN Kai-wai enquired about the locations where the palm trees would be relocated, and the definition of "small trees". He hoped that actions would be taken to avoid situations where non-small trees were removed by the contractors. Moreover,

he asked about the reasons for demolishing the stone walls, and whether the proposed stainless steel railings could be made of other materials that were more suitable for the environment of the waterfront.

24. Mr Marco LEE of CEDD responded that the trees in the site of the Stage 1 works had been relocated to Silverstrand Beach Road, whereas two out of eight small trees/plants in the site of the Stage 4 works were not categorised as trees and would thus be removed. Besides, six *Colvillea racemosa* were planned to be relocated to Mei Yuen Street in Sai Kung. The replacement of the stone walls with planters aimed to create more space at the waterfront promenade both visually and physically. He also pointed out that the railings would be made of high-quality stainless steel.

25. The Chairman said a comparison of the waterfront promenade before and after the demolition of the stone walls was shown in slides 19 and 20 of the presentation. Using planters to divide the space would create an overall sense of spaciousness. Moreover, the sitting-out facilities would still be retained but at different locations.

26. Ms Christine FONG asked whether the Commissioner for Harbourfront had offered advice on the project or considered allocating additional resources. She suggested setting up more water-friendly areas around the piers. In view of the impact of climate change, the department could consider building concrete wave walls at some sections of the waterfront promenade. Also, she suggested that the department should re-paint the exterior walls of the pumping station in a theme that was relevant to the Cat Mural. As the Government was making efforts to boost the local economy and promote events under “Day x Night Vibes @ 18 Districts”, the department could consider the designs of the waterfront promenades in other places as reference and set up various stalls at the Sai Kung Waterfront Promenade. In this connection, she asked whether the enhancement works would set up power supply facilities at different spots of the waterfront promenade. Lastly, she suggested improving the water-resistant properties of the lamp posts at the waterfront, so as to prevent electricity leakage.

27. The Chairman added that the “Day x Night Vibes” event in Sai Kung District would be the Sai Kung Tin Hau Festival to be held from 23 to 27 May. The issue of power supply at the Sai Kung Waterfront Promenade was related to a later agenda item regarding restaurants with outside seating accommodation (OSA).

28. Mr Marco LEE of CEDD responded that the enhancement works were aimed at upgrading the existing facilities with limited resources, and thus no fundamental changes would be made to the facilities of the waterfront promenade, including the areas for entering the water. The works mainly involved improving the spaciousness and design of the waterfront promenade. In response to climate change, the Government would carry out appropriate works in a progressive manner. In the future, facilities such as toe walls could be installed based on actual needs. Foundation works could also be carried out at the relevant sections of the waterfront promenade. Additionally, CEDD was responsible for the design of the exterior walls of the pumping station, which would then be painted by the contractor of the Drainage Services Department (DSD).

The exterior walls of the pumping station would be painted in white with undertones of grey and yellow, matched with a design resembling blue skies and white clouds, so as to complement the warm-coloured paving blocks of the waterfront promenade.

29. The Chairman described the colour of the exterior walls of the pumping station as milky white, which was elegant and soft. The reasons for using white paint were to align with the theme of blue skies and white clouds, and to complement the environment of the waterfront. SKDO was proactively preparing for the “Cat Neighbours Mural” project in Sai Kung town centre, and the implementation of relevant events in other places could be explored in the future. Furthermore, in view of the strike of the super typhoons “Mangkhut” and “Hato”, extra efforts must be made to prevent the backflow of seawater at the waterfront of Tseung Kwan O. As to whether wave prevention facilities would also be installed at Sai Kung Waterfront, factors such as aesthetics, practicality and weather conditions needed to be taken into account. SKDO would further discuss with CEDD and Members when the need arose. She also said that DSD was launching a territory-wide project to enhance the visual appeal of manhole covers. As DSD, the Highways Department (HyD) and SKDO also planned to install thematic manhole covers in Sai Kung District, Members could propose suitable locations as potential photo-taking spots for tourists and the public.

(C) Sai Kung District Office Annual District Plan 2024-25
(SKDC(M) Paper No. 36/24)

30. The Chairman said the relevant paper had been discussed in the first full council meeting in 2024. Further details of the key projects were provided in the captioned work plan, including activities in celebration of the National Day and promotional activities on patriotic education.

31. Members noted the above work plan.

III. Matters Arising

(A) Follow-up on motions discussed at the second meeting of SKDC held on 5 March 2024

32. The Chairman said six motions had been passed at the second meeting of SKDC in 2024, and the views of SKDC on the passed motions had been sent to relevant government departments in writing. The Secretariat had already informed Members about the replies received via e-mail and uploaded them to the SKDC’s website.

IV. Report Items

(A) Progress reports of the committees under SKDC

- (1) District Facilities and Works Committee
- (2) Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee
- (3) Community Involvement, Culture and Recreation Committee

- (4) Traffic and Transport Committee
(SKDC(M) Paper Nos. 37/24 to 40/24)

33. Members endorsed the above reports.

(B) Progress report of the working group directly under SKDC

- (1) Working Group on Boosting Local Economy
(SKDC(M) Paper No. 41/24)

34. Members endorsed the above report.

(C) Progress report of the committee under the Sai Kung District Office

- (1) Sai Kung District Management Committee
(SKDC(M) Paper No. 42/24)

35. Members noted the above report.

V. Motions Raised by Members

(A) The six motions raised by Members

- (1) **Step up efforts in combating street deception, such as scams involving illegal begging, busking and borrowing money**
(SKDC(M) Paper No. 43/24)

36. The Chairman said the motion was moved by Mr WONG Yuen-hong and seconded by Mr Chris CHEUNG, Mr WAN Kai-ming, Ms TAM Chuk-kwan, Mr Kelvin YAU, Ms KI Lai-mei, Mr CHAN Kwong-fai, Mr Ken CHAN, Mr CHONG Yuen-tung, Mr CHENG Yu-hei, Mr CHEUNG Chin-pang, Ms SZE Pan-pan, Mr YAU Ho-lun, Mr WONG Wang-to, Mr CHEUNG Man-tim and Mr Philip LI.

37. Members noted the written replies from the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) (SKDC(M) Paper Nos. 50/24 and 61/24).

38. Mr MAK Man-yu, District Commander (Tseung Kwan O), HKPF said HKPF had received reports on illegal begging at different locations from time to time, including the vicinity of the footbridge to Sheung Tak Estate and the area around Tong Chun Street. HKPF would step up patrols and take appropriate actions accordingly. As for the deception cases, HKPF would continue to enhance publicity efforts on anti-deception.

39. Mr Carmelo YEUNG, District Commander (Wong Tai Sin), HKPF said that HKPF would deal with unlawful activities of begging or gathering alms in accordance with the Summary Offences Ordinance. Over the past 12 months, the Sai Kung Police Division had received one report of begging in Sai Kung town centre, but the beggar had already left before the Police arrived at the scene. HKPF would handle reports from citizens

seriously, and make arrests or take follow-up actions based on the evidence available. When necessary, HKPF would consider working with relevant government departments, including the Immigration Department (ImmD), to conduct joint inspections and enforcement actions. Additionally, HKPF had been promoting information on combating illegal begging through various channels. From what HKPF observed on the Internet, the public had become more vigilant. He would like to appeal to the public not to be overly compassionate, otherwise they would encourage illegal activities. If needed, the public could report to HKPF.

40. Mr WONG Yuen-hong suggested stepping up inspections at begging black spots, including the entrance of Bauhinia Garden on Po Yap Road, the vicinity of Tseung Kwan O Waterfront Park and Exit B of Hang Hau MTR Station. In addition, he opined that the existing legislation on the performance of musical instruments could not effectively regulate illegal activities involving beggars posing as buskers. Section 26A of the Summary Offences Ordinance provided that beggars would only receive a heavier sentence on conviction for a third or subsequent offence. The penalty could not serve as a sufficient deterrent, and he hoped that HKPF would comprehensively combat begging activities controlled by syndicates.

41. Mr MAK Man-yu of HKPF responded that if the buskers only used loudspeakers to play music and sing, they could be subject to relevant legislation on noise control and street obstruction.

42. Mr Carmelo YEUNG of HKPF responded that pursuant to Section 26A of the Summary Offences Ordinance, the beggars would be liable to a fine of \$2,000 and to imprisonment for one month on conviction for a first or second offence; and to a fine of \$2,000 and to imprisonment for 12 months on conviction for a third or subsequent offence.

43. Mr CHONG Yuen-tung thanked HKPF for stepping up efforts to tackle the problem of begging. In his opinion, the overall situation had shown improvement. He suggested that HKPF should collaborate with SKDC Members and the Care Teams to step up publicity efforts in the district and hang banners at begging black spots.

44. Mr WAN Kai-ming said although the situation at some begging black spots had improved, the mode of operation of beggars had also changed. For example, some beggars had moved to the vicinity of King Lam Estate or Kai King Road. Besides, he often came across persons attempting to borrow money near his street counters. He hoped that HKPF would provide guidance or solutions to educate the public on how to deal with such situations.

45. Mr CHAN Kai-wai suspected that the beggars were mostly holders of travel documents, and suggested that the Government should consider invoking other ordinances to regulate begging activities. He then asked how HKPF would handle such issues.

46. The Chairman suggested that if members of the public were asked for money or harassed, they could tell the suspected swindlers that they would report to HKPF, so as to deter the scammers.

47. Mr MAK Man-yu of HKPF responded that it was difficult to generalise about cases involving borrowing money and harassment. When necessary, the public should report to HKPF for assistance. Depending on the actual situation, HKPF would take enforcement actions if illegal activities were involved.

48. Mr Carmelo YEUNG of HKPF agreed with Mr MAK Man-yu's suggestions. Members of the public were welcome to report to HKPF, even if the incidents did not involve deception. As for enquiries relating to the breach of condition of stay, HKPF would instigate prosecution when there was sufficient evidence to prove that a person had violated the law. Even if there was insufficient evidence, HKPF would inform ImmD about the relevant details for its follow-up. For instance, the persons involved would undergo examination when they sought entry to Hong Kong in the future.

49. There being no objection from Members, the Chairman declared that the motion was passed. The views of SKDC would be relayed to HKPF in writing.

(2) Request for implementation of the School-based After School Care Service Scheme in Sai Kung District
(SKDC(M) Paper No. 44/24)

50. The Chairman said that the motion was moved by Mr Kelvin YAU and seconded by Mr WONG Yuen-hong, Mr CHONG Yuen-tung, Mr WONG Wang-to, Mr WAN Kai-ming, Mr TSANG Kwok-ka, Ms KI Lai-mei, Mr CHENG Yu-hei, Mr CHAU Ka-lok, Ms WU Suet-lin, Mr LI Tin-chi, Mr CHAN Kuen-kwan, Mr CHAN Chi-ho, Mr Chris CHEUNG, Mr CHEUNG Chin-pang, Ms KAN Tung-tung, Mr CHAN Kwong-fai, Ms Angel CHONG, Mr LAU Kai-hong, Ms SZE Pan-pan, Mr Ken CHAN, Ms TAM Chuk-kwan, Ms Christine FONG, Mr Philip LI, Mr CHEUNG Man-tim, Mr YAU Ho-lun, Mr CHAN Kai-wai and Mr WANG Wen.

51. Members noted the written reply from the Education Bureau (EDB) and the Social Welfare Department (SWD) (SKDC(M) Paper No. 51/24).

52. Mr WONG Yuen-hong said the School-based After School Care Service Scheme had been implemented for nearly half a year. He enquired about the effectiveness of the scheme, and suggested that it should be extended to other areas, including Sai Kung District, in the new school year. Besides, a similar motion had been passed by SKDC in 2019. He cited the reply from SWD in the past stating that there were around 120 service places for after-school care services in Sai Kung District with a utilisation rate of 97%, and that SWD would provide more service places in a proactive manner. He enquired about the increase in the number of service places and details of the utilisation rates, and what measures the Government would take to cope with the problem of insufficient child care services for children aged between six and 12 in the district.

53. Mr Kelvin YAU said that the number of participating schools and utilisation rates were higher than expected. He hoped that Sai Kung District would be included in the scheme, since the labour force of Sai Kung District ranked fourth in the territory. Even though the residents' levels of income were above average, there was a wide wealth gap in the district.

54. Mr David NG, District Social Welfare Officer (Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung), SWD responded to Members' views as summarised below:

- EDB and SWD were implementing the School-based After School Care Service Scheme in Kowloon City, Yau Tsim Mong, Sham Shui Po, Kwun Tong, Kwai Tsing, Tsuen Wan and Yuen Long Districts. The effectiveness of the scheme would be reviewed in due course, so as to formulate its future direction.
- SWD was aware of the active participation of the schools in the above-mentioned districts and the need for child care services in Sai Kung District. He would relay to the headquarters the demand for school-based after school care services in Sai Kung District, and would report the result of the review to SKDC in due course.
- Since 2019, SWD had increased the number of service places for after school care services for primary school students in a progressive manner. It acknowledged the demand for further increase, and would encourage suitable operating organisations to provide more service places.
- As for children below six, there were 22 and 94 service places for occasional child care services and extended hours services respectively in Sai Kung District, and their corresponding utilisation rates were only 40% and 20%. SWD would step up efforts in promoting such services.

55. Ms Angel CHONG hoped that SWD would provide the contact information of the organisations offering occasional child care services and extended hours services after the meeting, so as to facilitate Members' referral of cases.

56. Mr Chris CHEUNG said it was anticipated that child care services would also be provided in the Joint-user Complex in Tseung Kwan O Area 67. He asked whether the facilities could meet the need for such services in the district.

57. Mr David NG of SWD replied that the child care facilities in the Joint-user Complex were one of the newly provided services. The Government would continue to review changes in the population of the district, and consider providing more child care services based on service need.

58. Ms Christine FONG remarked that there were too many kindergartens in the district, and mentioned that the Southern District had seen a tide of closures of kindergartens. A lot of elderly persons in the district had to take care of their grandchildren, and the middle class was also struggling to make ends meet. To cope with the actual demand, she suggested that the Government should consider designating

some of the kindergartens as child care service facilities.

59. Mr David NG of SWD responded that the department would closely monitor the usage of kindergartens and thoroughly consider the suggestions from all parties.

60. There being no objection from Members, the Chairman declared that the above motion was passed. The views of SKDC would be relayed to EDB and SWD in writing.

(3) Conduct comprehensive inspections of the drains in Sai Kung District to prepare for the rainy season
(SKDC(M) Paper No. 45/24)

61. As the scope of discussion of this motion was similar to that of another agenda item, and there being no objection from Members, the Chairman declared that the motion would be discussed later together with item (C) under Any Other Business, namely “A summary of the actions taken by the Sai Kung District Office and relevant government departments on 4 to 5 May 2024 in response to the rainstorm in Sai Kung and Tseung Kwan O”.

(4) Boost the economy and support unique local businesses by relaxing the requirements for and expediting the vetting and approval of applications for outside seating accommodation in restaurants in Hang Hau Village/Sai Kung Town
(SKDC(M) Paper No. 46/24)

62. The Chairman said that the motion was moved by Ms Christine FONG and seconded by Mr WONG Shui-sang, Mr WAN Kai-ming, Mr Philip LI, Ms LI Ka-yan, Mr LAM Chun-ka, Mr YAU Ho-lun, Ms Natasha YU, Ms WU Suet-lin, Mr CHEUNG Man-tim, Mr CHAN Kwong-fai, Mr Kelvin YAU, Mr LAU Kai-hong, Ms KI Lai-mei, Ms TAM Chuk-kwan, Mr CHONG Yuen-tung, Mr LI Tin-chi, Mr CHEUNG Chin-pang, Mr Ken CHAN, Mr CHAN Kuen-kwan, Mr CHAU Ka-lok and Mr WANG Wen.

63. Members noted the written replies from the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), the District Lands Office, Sai Kung (DLO/SK) and the Buildings Department (BD) (SKDC(M) Paper Nos. 56/24, 57/24 and 62/24).

64. Mr Chris CHEUNG said in the light of the current economic downturn, the Government could consider exercising discretion or relaxing the requirements for OSA applications. Besides, some residents had reflected that the old streets of Sai Kung were poorly lit, and that there should be a “pai fong” with unique design. He hoped that the Government would consider the environment of Stanley as reference to enhance and showcase the characteristics of Sai Kung District.

65. Mr LAM Chun-ka opined that the staff of FEHD was sometimes being overly strict when carrying out enforcement actions targeting the restaurants in Hang Hau Village

and Sai Kung, which could possibly affect the development of the night economy. He hoped that FEHD would expedite the vetting and approval of OSA applications. Apart from Stanley, the Government could also consider the lighting and decorations at the night markets in Taiwan as reference. He believed that the restaurants would be willing to put up thematic decorations on their own. Meanwhile, the Government could consider relaxing the relevant restrictions to boost the economy.

66. Mr CHAN Kuen-kwan said that the Government had set out strict requirements and would reject OSA applications from restaurants if complaints were received. A mechanism should be established to protect the applicants, so as to prevent anonymous complaints, abuse of the complaint channel or complaints targeting specific individuals. Besides, he stated that the time needed for handling OSA applications varied across districts. For Kowloon and Hong Kong Island, it took around half a year and a whole year respectively for the department to handle the applications. However, for New Territories, it seemed that the applicants had to wait endlessly and they would not be informed of the reasons for rejection.

67. Mr LAU Kai-hong said that the restaurants in Hang Hau Village had operated since the early stage of development of Tseung Kwan O, and a number of them were shut down. In fact, it was difficult to operate restaurants and many had ceased operation. While the majority of residents hoped to bring their pets and eat outdoors, the restaurants in the village did not provide such facilities. Although he had helped restaurants apply for OSA, no concrete reply was received eventually. Having looked into the matter, he learnt that some individuals had raised opposition to the applications, but these views might not truly reflect the voices of other residents. He hoped that the procedures could be simplified or that other measures would be rolled out to improve the handling of applications.

68. Mr YAU Ho-lun said even if restaurants were permitted to arrange OSA, pets would not be allowed in the area. Such restriction made it difficult for pet owners in the district to find suitable restaurants. Hence, he suggested designating specific areas for pets during special festive events as trial runs for allowing pets to enter restaurant areas. He also proposed working with suitable organisations to manage hygiene problems.

69. Mr Philip LI said while the Government was promoting economic revival, the department's strict adherence to the official procedures resulted in long processing time for vetting and approval. He hoped that exceptional arrangements could be made for special times to simplify administrative procedures, in order for the economy to recover as soon as possible.

70. Mr WONG Wang-to said many applications were rejected due to objections from individuals. In his opinion, these cases could be processed flexibly. Operating restaurants in Hong Kong was subject to many regulations, which ensured higher hygiene standards, but at the same time limited the possibility of having unconventional arrangements. A lot of pet owners and people who enjoyed eating in outdoor areas

would like to visit unique restaurants. Yet, due to relevant limitations, many restaurants could not set up OSA. As a result, there were very few unique restaurants left in Hong Kong.

71. Ms Christine FONG said local restaurants hoped to develop their own uniqueness by making use of the geological advantages of Sai Kung and Hang Hau. She was a dog owner and also found it difficult to look for suitable restaurants in the district. She said as the Legislative Council had started to study the possibility of relaxing the relevant regulation to permit certain restaurants to be pet-friendly, she hoped that in the future, trial runs for allowing pets to enter restaurant areas during special festive events would be considered. Similar practice of the Market Management Consultative Committee for Sai Kung Market should also be adopted to invite government departments, SKDC Members and other stakeholders to have regular meetings.

72. Ms LAI Wing-sau, District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Sai Kung), FEHD responded to Members' views as summarised below:

- After an OSA application was received by FEHD, local public consultation would be conducted through the relevant department. FEHD would observe whether local objections persisted over a certain period of time. If that was the case, it would be difficult for FEHD to approve the application concerned.
- To strengthen communication with relevant departments and increase efficiency in processing applications, FEHD had adopted an electronic referral system. It would review the situation and enhance relevant procedures continuously.
- As regards views on bringing dogs (except for guide dogs) into food premises, the Government understood that there had been changes in the societal culture over the years, but it would also have to strike a balance on the need to safeguard public health and hygiene, etc. The Environment and Ecology Bureau, together with the FEHD, were reviewing the current situation and the existing policy and legislation, with reference to the experiences in other places and the views of the public. It was expected that the review would take around one year.

73. The Chairman added that FEHD had provided detailed online guidelines on OSA application for restaurants, which included information on public consultation. After receiving an OSA application, FEHD would ask SKDO to assist in consulting the public. SKDO would seek views from various parties including SKDC Members, Area Committee members, local organisations and rural representatives in the vicinity of the proposed OSA, etc. The opinions of the consulted parties would be recorded in the relevant forms and collected by SKDO. She believed that Members had extensive experience in conducting public consultations. If Members received unreasonable opinions, they should consider how to reflect local views reasonably and truthfully. Subsequently, SKDO would consolidate the collected views and submit them to FEHD. The individual complaints mentioned by some Members were not covered by this public consultation mechanism, and should instead be regarded as general complaints from

members of the public. Should there be unreasonable opposing views, she was certain that Members would give appropriate consideration when handling those views. On the other hand, the staff of FEHD should be experienced enough to evaluate whether the complaints received were valid. Thus, an OSA application should not be affected by a single complaint that was obviously unreasonable. Likewise, if the objections received were indeed valid, the department had the responsibility to give due consideration to the matter.

74. There being no objection from Members, the Chairman declared that the above motion was passed. The views of SKDC would be relayed to FEHD, DLO/SK and BD in writing.

(5) Suggest the Development Bureau build a two-kilometre “Tseung Kwan O - Lei Yue Mun” waterfront boardwalk for pedestrians and cyclists, so as to provide a direct connection between Tseung Kwan O and Lei Yue Mun, create a vibrant waterfront and develop new unique cultural tourism resources in Hong Kong

(SKDC(M) Paper No. 47/24)

75. The Chairman said the motion was moved by Mr CHEUNG Chin-pang and seconded by Mr CHONG Yuen-tung, Mr WAN Kai-ming, Mr TSANG Kwok-ka, Ms KI Lai-mei, Mr CHENG Yu-hei, Mr CHAU Ka-lok, Mr LI Tin-chi, Mr CHAN Kuen-kwan, Mr CHAN Chi-ho, Mr Chris CHEUNG, Ms KAN Tung-tung, Mr CHAN Kwong-fai, Ms Angel CHONG, Mr LAU Kai-hong, Mr Kelvin YAU, Ms SZE Pan-pan, Mr Ken CHAN, Ms TAM Chuk-kwan, Mr WONG Yuen-hong, Mr WONG Wang-to, Ms Christine FONG, Mr YAU Ho-lun, Mr CHAN Kai-wai, Mr WONG Shui-sang, Ms LI Ka-yan, Ms Natasha YU, Mr LAM Chun-ka, Mr CHEUNG Man-tim and Mr WANG Wen.

76. Members noted the written reply from the Development Bureau (DEVB) and CEDD (SKDC(M) Paper No. 60/24).

77. Ms Christine FONG supported the construction of a boardwalk as it could be a possible solution to the problem at O King Road where some sections were too steep for pedestrians and cyclists. If DEVB intended to take forward the proposal, she would definitely support its decision. Developing hiking trails could improve the connectivity of historic buildings/sites and the nearby areas. She also hoped that the boardwalk would be accessible by both cyclists and pedestrians, and expressed concerns about its environmental impact.

78. Ms SZE Pan-pan said the waterfronts of Tseung Kwan O South, Kwun Tong and Cha Kwo Ling were well liked by the public. She had carried out public consultation on the motion's proposal through street counters and learnt that the residents supported the construction of a boardwalk. She hoped that DEVB would consider the proposal.

79. Mr CHAN Chi-ho expressed support for the motion. If the proposal was adopted,

he suggested providing toilet facilities on the boardwalk since many residents had reflected to him that the cycle tracks or walking trails in Sai Kung District lacked such facilities. Further, he suggested considering the design of Tsim Sha Tsui Promenade as reference to make optimal use of part of the boardwalk for setting up various stalls. He also hoped that the boardwalk could be shared by pedestrians and cyclists.

80. Mr CHEUNG Chin-pang agreed with what DEVB and CEDD indicated in the written reply that relevant studies could be conducted in the future on the enhancement of connectivity of the hiking trails and historic sites in Sai Kung District and Kwun Tong District. However, he believed that developing a boardwalk would be more beneficial and accessible to the public as compared to hiking trails. In the 2023 Policy Address, the Chief Executive stated that the Government would endeavour to build a 60-kilometre (km) “Round-the-Island Trail” on Hong Kong Island to connect all waterfront promenades thereof. He hoped that the proposed 2-km boardwalk would connect the waterfronts of Tseung Kwan O and Kwun Tong, as well as Kai Tak Sports Park to encourage people to visit different areas and create a vibrant waterfront promenade.

81. Mr Chris CHEUNG said he had suggested a relevant idea to the Planning Department (PlanD) during the previous term of SKDC. At that time, the Director of Planning had adopted an open attitude towards it. On Hong Kong Island, there was already a waterfront promenade connecting North Point and Central. With a 5-km coastal cycle track loop in Tseung Kwan O, it would be even better if there was a 2-km boardwalk connecting the area with Lei Yue Mun. He hoped that DEVB would consider the proposal to construct a boardwalk rather than develop hiking trails.

82. Mr CHAN Kai-wai said SKDC of the previous term had made a relevant suggestion, and DEVB said the department would consider it proactively. Kwun Tong District, which was not far from Tseung Kwan O, had a waterfront promenade spanning from Kowloon Bay to Lei Yue Mun. The proposed 2-km boardwalk was shorter than the existing walkway in LOHAS Park, and therefore he believed that the construction of the boardwalk would not be very difficult. He hoped that the department would take forward the proposal expeditiously, so that the boardwalk could serve as an alternative to public transport for grave sweepers, and also as an additional route in case of emergency.

83. Mr Horace NG, Chief Engineer/East 1, CEDD responded to Members’ views as summarised below:

- DEVB always strived for enhancing the diversity of the sightseeing spots and facilities in the district. While the commissioning of the Cross Bay Bridge, which facilitated the 5-km cycle track in Junk Bay area, had been well received and frequently used by the public, DEVB would review the feasibility in enhancing the connectivity of various Grade 2 and Grade 3 historic buildings in the district to allow members of the public to explore other local attraction points.
- He would relay Members’ suggestions on the proposed hiking trails and

boardwalk to DEVB, including the potential provision of public toilets, stalls and a walkway cum cycle track if space is available. Their views would be considered by DEVB when planning the development of Area 132 and Area 137.

- As regards Members' suggestion on constructing a 2-km waterfront boardwalk with a cycle track connecting Tseung Kwan O with Lei Yue Mun, he would convey the message to DEVB for consideration and study in the view of the limited space, site constraints and difficulty in construction. The review might also take into account the programming and possibility of developing the cycle track first with pedestrian walkway thereafter in phases.

84. Mr Walter KWONG, District Planning Officer/Sai Kung & Islands, PlanD responded that PlanD would study the technical feasibility of the suggestions in collaboration with CEDD.

85. There being no objection from Members, the Chairman declared that the above motion was passed. The views of SKDC would be relayed to DEVB and CEDD in writing.

(6) Urge government departments to step up publicity and education on emergency preparedness for fire in Sai Kung and Tseung Kwan O
(SKDC(M) Paper No. 48/24)

86. The Chairman said that the motion was moved by Mr Chris CHEUNG and seconded by Mr CHONG Yuen-tung, Mr WAN Kai-ming, Mr TSANG Kwok-ka, Ms KI Lai-mei, Mr CHENG Yu-hei, Mr CHAU Ka-lok, Mr LI Tin-chi, Mr CHAN Kuen-kwan, Mr CHAN Chi-ho, Ms KAN Tung-tung, Mr CHAN Kwong-fai, Ms Angel CHONG, Mr LAU Kai-hong, Mr Kelvin YAU, Ms SZE Pan-pan, Mr Ken CHAN, Ms TAM Chuk-kwan, Mr WONG Yuen-hong, Mr WONG Wang-to, Ms Christine FONG, Mr YAU Ho-lun, Mr CHAN Kai-wai, Mr CHEUNG Chin-pang, Mr LAM Chun-ka, Ms LI Ka-yan, Ms Natasha YU, Ms WU Suet-lin, Mr CHEUNG Man-tim and Mr WANG Wen.

87. Members noted the written replies from the Fire Services Department (FSD) and BD (SKDC(M) Paper Nos. 58/24 and 59/24).

88. Mr LAM Chun-ka was saddened by the fire incident at New Lucky House and opined that currently, the dissemination of fire safety information only after the occurrence of a fire accident was inadequate. He suggested that FSD should promote the awareness of fire protection and explain the concept of fire escape and the necessary resources to the residents in old and single-block residential buildings on a regular basis.

89. The Chairman said that the public was very concerned about the publicity and education efforts on fire safety after the serious fire incident at New Lucky House in Jordan. She appreciated Mr Chris CHEUNG's efforts to express his opinions and appeal to the public on relevant matters on social media after the fire incident. In

addition to fire protection, the contingency response measures in case of fire were also important. FSD had all along promoted important messages such as the “three useful items for fire escape” to the public. Members’ views could be followed up by the District Fire Safety Committee (DFSC). Meanwhile, she supported and encouraged Members to promote fire safety information among the public through various platforms.

90. Mr CHAN Kuen-kwan said other than the “three useful items for fire escape”, FSD had also distributed the “three treasures for fire protection”, such as fire blankets. He agreed with the motion and said he would take advantage of his role as a Fire Safety Ambassador to strengthen the promotion of fire safety.

91. Mr CHAN Kai-wai suggested inviting FSD representatives to the SKDC full council meeting in the future. He had questions about the false fire alarm incident at a government building on 17 April, which lasted for two hours, suspecting that the fire alarm system in the building was not connected to FSD.

92. The Chairman said that Mr CHAN Kai-wai could attend the meeting of DFSC at 4:00 p.m. on 8 May to follow up on the matter.

93. Ms Christine FONG acknowledged that a lot of publicity and education efforts had been made in Sai Kung District, including those initiated by the Fire Safety Ambassador Honorary Presidents’ Association and DFSC. In her opinion, FSD needed to pay attention to the buildings aged 50 to 60 years located in areas such as Jordan and Yau Ma Tei. She supported that the Government should expedite the amendment to the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance to empower FSD and BD to carry out approved fire safety improvement works and recover the costs from relevant members of the public after completing the default works. She also said that the youth group of the Fire Safety Ambassador Scheme would also join hands to enhance the promotion of fire safety.

94. Mr Chris CHEUNG agreed that DFSC had all along promoted fire safety awareness, and the current motion mainly focused on the old and single-block residential buildings in Sai Kung District. Since 2020, most of the fire incidents with casualties had occurred in old residential buildings inhabited by the elderly and physically disabled persons. He hoped that FSD could step up fire safety promotion work targeting at the old residential buildings.

95. There being no objection from Members, the Chairman declared that the above motion was passed. The views of SKDC would be relayed to FSD and BD in writing.

VI. Any Other Business

(A) Updated Membership List of the Committees/Working Groups established under SKDC

96. Members noted the above updated membership list and Mr CHEUNG Chin-pang’s

withdrawal from the Working Group on Boosting Local Economy on 9 April.

(B) Arrangements for the production of festive items for Chinese New Year (calendars)

97. The Chairman said SKDC would produce “Chinese New Year Festive Items 2025” in collaboration with SKDO. This year’s funding ceiling was set at \$360,000 and only large wall calendars would be produced.

98. There being no objection from Members, the Chairman asked the Secretariat to submit the relevant funding application to SKDO and to follow up on the quotation and procurement procedures for the production of the wall calendars in accordance with government guidelines and standards. Furthermore, she proposed using “Photo-taking Spots for Sai Kung Vibes” as the theme of the photos for the 2025 wall calendar and considering inviting the public to submit photos. Residents of Sai Kung District could hand in the photos capturing the local photo-taking landmarks and scenic spots. Additionally, she invited Members to actively participate in and promote the activity. SKDO would select around 13 photos as the cover and inside pages of the calendar.

(C) A summary of the actions taken by the Sai Kung District Office and relevant government departments on 4 to 5 May 2024 in response to the rainstorm in Sai Kung and Tseung Kwan O

(3) Conduct comprehensive inspections of the drains in Sai Kung District to prepare for the rainy season
(SKDC(M) Paper No. 45/24)

99. The Chairman welcomed the following government department representatives to the meeting:

HyD

- Mr YIM Tak-yiu, Senior Maintenance Engineer/South East; and
- Mr TSANG Hing-fai, Maintenance Engineer/Slopes (East).

DSD

- Mr MOK Cheuk-wah, Senior Engineer/Mainland South 6.

100. The Chairman said that motion (3) was moved by Mr YAU Ho-lun and seconded by Mr Philip LI, Mr CHONG Yuen-tung, Mr WAN Kai-ming, Mr TSANG Kwok-ka, Ms KI Lai-mei, Mr CHENG Yu-hei, Mr WONG Shui-sang, Mr LI Tin-chi, Mr CHAN Kuen-kwan, Mr CHAN Chi-ho, Mr Chris CHEUNG, Mr CHEUNG Chin-pang, Ms KAN Tung-tung, Mr CHAN Kwong-fai, Ms Angel CHONG, Mr LAU Kai-hong, Mr Kelvin YAU, Ms SZE Pan-pan, Mr Ken CHAN, Ms TAM Chuk-kwan, Mr WONG Yuen-hong, Mr WONG Wang-to, Ms Christine FONG, Mr YAU Ho-lun, Mr CHAN Kai-wai, Mr CHEUNG Man-tim, Mr CHAU Ka-lok and Mr WANG Wen.

101. Members noted the written replies from HyD, DLO/SK, DSD and FEHD (SKDC(M) Paper Nos. 52/24 to 55/24).

102. As regards the exceptionally severe rainstorm occurred in Sai Kung and Tseung Kwan O from 4 to 5 May 2024, the Chairman gave a summary report of the response actions taken by SKDO and the relevant government departments, which was consolidated as follows:

- On 3 May, SKDO and the relevant government departments convened a special meeting of the Sai Kung District Management Committee (SKDMC) to discuss the preparatory work for flood prevention in the district. The attending government representatives included those from all works departments and HKPF, etc.
- At the meeting, SKDMC reviewed the severe flooding that occurred in the district, especially in Tseung Kwan O, due to typhoons and exceptionally severe rainstorms in the third and fourth quarters of last year. It also reviewed the follow-up work done by the relevant government departments after flooding, so as to explore how to enhance this year's response actions. These included stepping up regular arrangements such as road clearance work by FEHD, HyD and DSD to remove refuse and other objects from the roads to prevent drains from being blocked, and regularly clearing and strengthening the inspections of catchment areas and pipes such as drainage channels and gullies.
- Following the severe flooding last year, the departments had strengthened the clearance of drains at flooding black spots from January to April 2024. Before the SKDMC meeting, SKDO had collected and consolidated information such as public complaints of the district, Members' views, information provided by departments and news reports, etc. It highlighted and identified over 80 locations with severe flooding and blockages in the past few years, especially last year.
- Regarding these over 80 flooding black spots, the relevant departments had briefly introduced the cleansing and inspection work completed from early January to April 2024 before the rainy season at the SKDMC meeting.
- The departments understood the importance of close inter-departmental communication in response to emergencies. Therefore, a 24-hour dedicated messaging group was created to maintain close contact among departments.
- At the SKDMC meeting, the departments agreed that conducting one round of cleansing work by April was inadequate, and that continuous efforts would be required to prepare for the rainy and tropical typhoon season. Nevertheless, unforeseen weather conditions arose following the SKDMC meeting on 3 May. On 4 May, an exceptionally severe rainstorm hit Sai Kung District and dealt a severe blow to the area. During the few hours when the issuance of an Amber Rainstorm Warning escalated to a Red Rainstorm Warning, the rainfall of the area had reached 400 millimetres (mm).
- On 4 May, DSD received around 12 flooding reports, the affected areas included Ying Yip Road, Wan Po Road, etc. The Geotechnical Engineering

Office (GEO) also received around 16 landslide reports of varying severity. HKPF, including the Tseung Kwan O Police District and the Sai Kung Division, received a total of 68 requests for assistance, involving issues such as flooding and traffic congestion. FSD had a service call record of 32 times, including 29 ambulance dispatch cases. Fortunately, there were no injuries reported on either of the days of 4 and 5 May. SKDO had immediately opened the Hang Hau Community Hall and the Sai Kung Jockey Club Town Hall as temporary shelters on the morning of 4 May. As of today (7 May), there were still members of the public staying in the shelters because some more time was needed to carry out debris clearance work for their village houses in Sai Kung. SKDO would maintain communication with the affected residents and provide assistance as appropriate.

- Since 4 May at 6:00 a.m., she had received information from different Members and the Care Teams, as well as flooding reports and relevant news reports through the messaging group. Also, the messaging group played a vital role as SKDO immediately contacted the relevant departments, such as DSD and HyD. Shortly afterwards, the departmental representatives reported that the personnel or appointed contractors had been sent to the scene to cope with the emergencies. In addition, HKPF and FSD had assisted in handling various emergency cases, such as traffic accidents that occurred during the rainstorms.
- Many landslides of varying severity occurred in the district during the heavy rainstorms, particularly affecting the areas at Clear Water Bay Road near Wing Lung Road, Pak Tam Road, Tai Mong Tsai Road and the areas near the open-air car park at LOHAS Park, etc.
- The joint emergency clearance efforts of the departments largely brought the flooding situation in the district under control at noon that day, with all major roads reopened by around 2:00 p.m.
- She appreciated the efforts of the DSD, HyD, HKPF, the Transport Department (TD), FSD and FEHD colleagues in maintaining close communication with SKDO, and responding swiftly to various issues. Mr LAM Sai-hung, Secretary for Transport and Logistics, also carried out a site inspection on Clear Water Bay Road near Wing Lung Road on the morning of 5 May with the heads of HyD and CEDD and the District Officer to discuss the relevant work. The relevant road section, which was usually very busy on weekdays, had been obstructed by a 500-metre landslide after the rainstorms. Emergency stabilisation works and temporary one-lane two-way traffic arrangements were required, and approximately more than a thousand residents were affected. The departments, in particular HyD, had swiftly pooled resources for immediate action, and the road was reopened at around midnight on Sunday. Thanks to their efforts, the traffic of Clear Water Bay Road resumed normal by the morning peak hours on Monday.
- She thanked Members and the Care Teams for disseminating information about flooding and weather conditions of different sub-districts to the public. A total of 13 Care Teams held fast to their duties under the adverse weather conditions. Not only did they report updated news to the public, but also

supported the work in SKDO's temporary shelters and assisted in drain clearance under safe conditions. One example was that Mr KAN Siu-kei provided assistance in the clearance at the footbridge at Sheung Tak.

103. Mr CHENG Yu-hei said various departments were able to work closely with their concerted efforts to combat the extreme weather conditions. Thankfully, no casualties were reported. Nevertheless, the departments should take more precautionary measures against sudden inclement weather in the future.

104. Mr LAU Kai-hong reported that he personally conducted inspections at villages and assisted villagers to cope with flooding. He started working early in the morning and did not finish all the work until late in the evening. It rained so heavily in Clear Water Bay and the rainfall gradually extended to Ho Chung and other areas in Sai Kung. The excessive stormwater in the watercourses overloaded the drains, ultimately leading to flooding. Some black spots such as Tseung Kwan O Village had shown improvement as compared to before. It showed the effectiveness of those early improvement works carried out by departments. Although a retaining wall had been built at the location in Ma Yau Tong Village where a landslide was caused by the previous rainstorm, there were still housing units being affected by floods this time. He appreciated the efforts made by various departments and the immediate actions taken under the leadership of the Chairman, otherwise projects like the one for the junction of Wing Lung Road would normally take one week to finish. Instead, this project was completed speedily, and greatly impressed the villagers. He considered it necessary to review the hillside drains in the future. Given that Hang Hau in Sai Kung was a terraced structure with many low-lying areas, the existing drains might not be able to accommodate a large amount of rainwater. In some of the areas, inspections should be stepped up to watch out for the risk of landslides. On the day of the rainstorm, he noticed landslides at four locations, which fortunately did not result in any injuries. Additionally, the landslides could only be dealt with under relatively favourable weather on the following day. It might have led to disastrous consequences if the torrential rain lasted several days. He welcomed the opportunity to conduct site inspections with relevant departments in the future. Moreover, it was necessary to address the problems associated with green belts, conservation sites and private land, etc. in the long run. He hoped that SKDO would continue to offer assistance to rural residents.

105. Ms Christine FONG said that in the current term, SKDO and relevant departments had been doing a good job with their excellent coordination and a highly logical notification mechanism. She admired the Chairman for her commitment to coordinating the work with SKDC Members and the Care Teams. Torrential rain might be inevitable under extreme weather conditions resulted from global warming. She noted that DSD had cleared some hillside gullies behind the Tin Hau Temple on 25 April. However, since the onset of the exceptionally severe rainstorm on 4 May, a large amount of rainwater mixed with sand and gravel flushed into the catchment area under the Tin Hau Temple. The department's subsequent efforts to pump away the sand and gravel using large machinery were commendable. It was essential to strengthen the follow-up work. Improvement to the drainage problems on some of the private agricultural

land or green belts was crucial as well. She hoped that DLO/SK could play a role in this regard. In the long run, she suggested constructing artificial lakes, large catchment areas or stormwater storage tanks so as to improve chronic problems including those in the vicinity of Ho Chung. As there was loose soil in the restored landfill, she hoped that the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) would step up its efforts. She also suggested setting up more weather stations at locations including Shek Kok Road, Chuk Yeung Road and other large catchment areas. Furthermore, the drainage works in some large private housing estates in the district might not be able to cope with the amount of rainfall under extreme weather, and thus she would like DSD to provide assistance and advice. Lastly, she suggested that DLO/SK should include a clause on taking out public liability insurance in granting short-term tenancies for car parks, so as to reduce the loss of car owners. She also hoped that the Government would provide more car parking spaces.

106. Ms Angel CHONG considered the response actions taken by various departments very efficient in this case, and asked whether the Government would conduct a comprehensive review of the capacity of drainage systems in Sai Kung and Tseung Kwan O to meet the prevailing demand, and evaluate the need for upgrade and enhancement. Currently, the rainstorm warnings were applicable to the whole territory. Yet it was dangerous when the people in Tseung Kwan O went out under the heavy rainstorm on 4 May. So, she recommended that the existing mechanism should be adjusted. She also suggested improving the information dissemination of the alert system. In the early morning on that day, many residents and car park users were not yet awake under the torrential rain. It had also become increasingly common that people might not pay attention to the announcements made via the public broadcasting system such as television. Therefore, relevant departments should consider making proper use of the emergency alert system activated during the pandemic to notify residents of severe flooding risks in some of the areas.

107. Mr CHAN Chi-ho recognised the good performance of government departments. In his opinion, the tree safety would be affected to a certain extent after the heavy rainstorm, and prolonged immersion of tree roots in water might increase the risk of collapse, in particular the large trees planted along the pavements in Tseung Kwan O or Sai Kung. He hoped that relevant departments could step up inspections of trees in the district to prevent them from collapsing and endangering the safety of pedestrians.

108. Mr Chris CHEUNG thanked various government departments for their tireless efforts in coping with district emergencies. He suggested that DSD and relevant departments should widen or deepen the drains at the flooding black spots, including the section of Wan Po Road towards the neighbouring Industrial Estate, and the section between the building of SUNeVision and the Tai Chik Sha Fire Station. In the wake of super typhoon “Mangkhut”, the department had improved the drainage systems in the vicinity of Chi Sin Street in Tseung Kwan O South with focused efforts, and hopefully, successive improvements would be made in other areas as well. He suggested stepping up the clearance of drains, especially in areas around Lohas Park Road in which debris or refuse still piled up. As regards the open-air car park outside LOHAS Park that had

been seriously flooded this time, the surrounding gullies or drains should also be cleared regularly. Lastly, he suggested that DLO/SK, CEDD and EPD should pay attention to the potential risks in green belts and on hillsides. As the landslides in the restoration landfills caused flooding at the car park within a very short time, he hoped that the departments would check the slopes under their purview and enhance slope stabilisation works.

109. Mr TSANG Kwok-ka said in the aftermath of this torrential rain, a large amount of muddy water was spotted in the bay of Tseung Kwan O, indicating that most of it was attributed by rainwater runoff from the hills. He would like the Government to inspect the slopes properly to find out whether there was loose soil on the hillsides. Besides, some residents reflected illegal cultivation on some slopes. He hoped that relevant departments would carry out inspection and assessment of the situation.

110. Mr CHAN Kuen-kwan said in the past, the road section from Sai Kung to Ma On Shan had collapsed or been closed during heavy rain or typhoons. After the road and hillside improvement works were completed by CEDD, the above problems did not occur on that road section. He hoped that the Government would continue to inspect the slopes in Sai Kung. Following the completion of the High Island Reservoir, some catchwaters had diverted water, resulting in the watercourse narrowing and the growth of trees and weeds in the surrounding area. Heavy rain might then cause overflowing due to poor drainage. He suggested that the department should review such situation. Besides, when he visited Tai Mong Tsai Village and Wong Chuk Wan Village with Mr LI Tin-chi on 30 April, they happened to meet HyD staff in Tai Mong Tsai Village. They discussed the problem of blocked drains together, and the department was requested to take immediate action. The department then cooperated to deal with the problem without delay, while the person-in-charge of the contractor also addressed the problem immediately during the site visit to Wong Chuk Wan Village. In his opinion, both the department and engineering staff were willing to cooperate. Lastly, he appreciated the dedicated work done by the frontline staff of FEHD under inclement weather to assist in coping with the water accumulated in Sai Kung Town.

111. Mr YAU Ho-lun said that severe flooding had occurred in most of the villages in Hang Hau several years ago. He thanked the departments for their persistent and selfless efforts to serve the villagers diligently. SKDO, DLO/SK, DSD, FEHD and LCSD had all cleared drains in rural areas. He hoped members of the public could understand that rural areas were too large that it would be impossible to require the departments to be stationed at the same location daily. So, concerted efforts from various stakeholders were needed to keep the departments informed. The liaison mechanism set up by the Chairman was effective in alleviating flooding problems in Hang Hau. Even though a few housing units in Ma Yau Tong Village were still flooded, the flooding situation improved a lot as compared to before, when as many as 50 households had previously been flooded. Besides, he had originally intended to provide a list of flooding problems to the department. Yet the department had responded more promptly by immediately requesting all to report the situation on the day of the rainstorm. He hoped that proactive follow-up actions based on the

topography and environment of various locations could continue in the future. Despite the emergence of new black spots under every heavy rain, he was confident that the related problems would be resolved in the future.

112. Mr Philip LI stated that before the onset of rainstorms, the collaborative actions with various departments initiated by the Chairman had been effective. Government departments had carried out many works projects. However, small-scale drainage improvement works might not be able to resolve the problems under extreme weather conditions. In February, DSD's "Drainage Improvement Works in Sai Kung District - Design and Construction" had been circulated to SKDC. He believed that only large-scale works like that would effectively resolve the problems. This time the heavy rainfall was concentrated in Sai Kung, in which Wong Chuk Wan and Tso Wo Hang encountered drainage problems. In the future, the Government (including DSD and PlanD) might consider taking drainage improvement measures in these areas to prevent flooding caused by extreme weather, and carrying out drainage works through the use of the catchment system of the High Island Reservoir.

113. Ms WU Suet-lin pointed out that many fallen leaves were found in the vicinity of King Lam Estate in Tseung Kwan O North. Residents reflected that it was easy to slip and fall on slippery roads in rainy days, and fallen leaves were also prone to accumulate in the drains. Therefore, they hoped that the relevant departments could step up their efforts in clearing the leaves. Besides, the Chairman was far-sighted, as she had been proactive in offering relevant training to Members and the Care Teams before 4 May, so that they could notify others via the messaging group in times of emergencies. It was a very effective and orderly approach for SKDO to reflect the situations to the relevant departments in a coordinated manner, which could avoid confusion in communication between departments and enable more systematic, accurate and immediate responses. Additionally, it allowed effective notification by Members and the Care Teams.

114. Mr CHAN Kai-wai said that the soil nailing works after the completion of relevant works on some slopes or sites were below standard. He suggested that wire mesh should be fixed earlier and fertilisers should also be provided to accelerate the growth of plants so as to avoid landslides. Moreover, there was a sediment influx at the roundabout of Hang Hau. DSD should increase the frequency of regular cleaning in the main drains of that area to prevent blockage. He also suggested providing flood sirens and other supplementary tools in the new facilities to protect the trunk roads or tunnels from flooding, and "applying shotcrete" to stabilise the slopes as soon as possible.

115. Mr WONG Shui-sang reported that as Chuk Yeung Road was hit by the torrential rain, the residents had to clear the accumulated water until the evening. Thankfully, the department responded swiftly by covering the collapsed area with canvas and removing the stones on the road after notification. However, Chuk Yeung Road was a special case. At its end, there was a private area. After some of the properties on that area were sold, the owners chose not to deal with the "damaged road" to the village. The village was located near a conservation area, and he had repeatedly reflected the

problem of overgrown trees therein. In his opinion, the Government had made excellent efforts this time. He had all along maintained contact with SKDO and sought assistance from members of the Legislative Council in delivering sand bags. He would like the Government to continue to pay attention to the rural areas. With the sudden onset of rainstorm, flooding might occur due to insufficient capacity of drains. He hoped that the department would repair the slopes, remove large stones or obstruct the stones with cement to prevent them from rolling down the steep road as soon as possible under favourable weather.

116. The Chairman's response to the views of Members was summarised below:

- SKDO and other government departments gave equal attention to the entire Sai Kung District, including both the urban areas of Tseung Kwan O and the rural areas of Sai Kung.
- After making joint efforts in emergency response on 4 May, they had been proceeding with the recovery work since 5 May.
- She thanked Members for submitting to SKDO the relevant information about the priority sites requiring attention, such as refuse, sludge, blockage or suspected dangerous slopes in their respective areas. The departments understood that the follow-up work needed to be carried out promptly. They hoped that information about certain priority sites requiring attention could be provided by Member using their knowledge of the district, especially with the consideration of the extent of impact on residents, so as to set operational priorities. SKDO had already relayed the views to relevant departments on Monday (6 May) for follow-up.
- SKDMC requested relevant departments to focus their resources to handle the priority sites requiring attention mentioned by Members and to complete relevant work within one week. She believed that the departments were also stepping up their efforts in dealing with the remaining sites.
- She thanked Members again for recognising the efforts made by SKDO and various departments. Regarding the establishment of the messaging mechanism, she said it was a suggestion for improvement which had been discussed with different departments after the SKDMC meeting.
- The clearance of drains was carried out by the departments including DSD, HyD, FEHD, etc., and the overall work was done expeditiously on 4 May. Thanks to the information provided by everyone, the departments could cope with some of the more severely affected sites first. The flooding situation was largely brought under control by noon. All major roads were reopened by 2:00 p.m., indicating that the fast and direct communication approach was highly effective.

117. Mr MOK Cheuk-wah, Senior Engineer/Mainland South 6, DSD responded to Members' views as summarised below:

- Hong Kong's first Red Rainstorm Warning of this year was issued last Saturday (4 May). Persistent heavy rainfall caused flooding and landslides

in many parts of the territory. Government departments including DSD responded promptly and spared no effort to minimise the impact of the rainstorm.

- Under the extreme weather condition, the torrential rain caused the stormwater drainage system to exceed its capacity. Flooding occurred in some of the previously flood-free areas, particularly in Sai Kung and Tseung Kwan O, where over 400 mm of rainfall was recorded throughout the day, mostly in daytime.
- Tseung Kwan O and Sai Kung had experienced an hourly rainfall of 145 mm. The situation was similar to the extreme weather last September. Frequent torrential rain caused landslides and some blocked drains due to gravel, resulting in flooding.
- On the other hand, DSD had all along maintained close liaison with the Hong Kong Observatory (HKO). In response to HKO's rainfall forecast, DSD made early preparation and mobilised emergency response teams quickly to proactively carry out inspections and identify flood-prone areas. DSD also promptly checked and cleared the blocked stormwater drainage systems.
- DSD's emergency response teams had been working closely with other government departments to deal with flooding incidents expeditiously. During the above-mentioned rainstorm, as many as 160 emergency response teams, with a total of about 600 officers, were mobilised to inspect and clear drains in various districts over the territory. In most of the incidents, works were completed within one to two hours after notification was received and the flooded roads generally resumed normal operation.
- Apart from emergency clearance, DSD also disseminated relevant information to the public instantly, including continuous updates on the conditions involving flooding and landslides via its website and social media account.
- As part of its ongoing efforts in enhancing flood prevention infrastructure, DSD was committed to implementing flood prevention infrastructure projects to reduce flooding risks. At present, DSD was implementing 11 projects and planned to seek funding approval from the Legislative Council this year for another 7 stormwater drainage improvement projects.
- DSD would also carry out minor improvement works, which included constructing roadside catchwaters and drains, etc., so as to further reduce flooding risks.

118. Mr YIM Tak-yiu, Senior Maintenance Engineer/South East, HyD responded to Members' views as summarised below:

- He thanked SKDO, HKPF, GEO, DSD and Members for their cooperation in facilitating the administration of relatively large-scale emergency slope maintenance works by HyD in a short time.
- In response to the rainstorm on 4 May, HyD activated the Emergency Control Centre and deployed nine road maintenance contractors to cope with road flooding and landslides, with a view to opening up at least one access road for

public use as soon as possible. The flooding situation was brought under control on 4 May. Although more time was needed to deal with the slopes at Clear Water Bay Road close to Wing Lung Road in Sai Kung, with the cooperation of all parties concerned, the carriageway for both bounds was opened in the early hours of 6 May to meet the needs of commuters.

- Apart from inspections of road conditions conducted on a regular basis and after rainstorms, HyD's maintenance contractors also deployed staff to inspect road sections susceptible to heavy rain when the Amber or Red Rainstorm Warning was in force. Flooding cases could thus be handled expeditiously. During the rainstorm, the department received 18 flooding reports in Sai Kung. It would examine whether it was necessary to enhance drainage facilities at individual locations.

119. Ms LAI Wing-sau of FEHD responded that she appreciated the coordination work done by SKDO, including the Chairman, during this rainstorm. Upon the issuance of the Amber Rainstorm Warning on 4 May, FEHD had deployed 50 workers to clear accumulated water, roadside gullies and fallen leaves in Sai Kung and Tseung Kwan O town centres respectively, after which the flooding situation was largely brought under control.

120. Mr Horace NG of CEDD replied that on the day of the rainstorm, failures and landslides were identified at more than ten slopes at locations near the existing roads and urban areas. GEO's emergency teams were mobilised to work together with colleagues of the works departments, such as HyD and DSD. He thanked Members for their recognition of the cooperation and prompt responses of relevant departments.

121. Mr MAK Man-yu of HKPF responded that in the wake of last year's tropical typhoon and rainy season, HKPF had also become more aware of the serious impact of extreme weather. One of the items in the Action Plan for Tseung Kwan O Police District 2024 set out this year was the response under extreme weather. Before the onset of this year's rainy season, HKPF held a sharing session, at which relevant departments were invited to review their experience in coping with strong wind and heavy rain in the past year and the areas for improvement. HKPF had also acquired different equipment, including personal protective gear for police officers and equipment for clearing obstacles, such as electric saws and shovels, and arranged relevant training for them. The above preparatory work was clearly effective in coping with the torrential rain this time. For example, police officers had already cleared simple obstructions before other departments arrived at the scene. HKPF would step up training and preparatory work in this regard in the coming year.

122. Mr Carmelo YEUNG of HKPF responded that extreme weather was mainly handled in three ways. The first was prevention and the second was contingency management. During the flooding and landslides on 4 May, the Deputy Regional Commander of the Kowloon East Region had deployed additional manpower to Sai Kung and Tseung Kwan O Police Districts. During the peak hours, the Police Tactical Unit deployed approximately over 80 additional members to provide support for Sai

Kung and Tseung Kwan O Police Districts. Regarding other support, colleagues from the Regional Traffic Headquarters also assisted in directing traffic on major trunk roads. As such, HKPF was able to deploy additional resources to take appropriate actions in response to extreme weather conditions. Thirdly, for recovery work, HKPF would cooperate with various government departments, including TD and HyD, etc., to examine whether major trunk roads and other roads were suitable for vehicular traffic in the aftermath of extreme weather.

123. The Chairman also thanked Mr David NG, District Social Welfare Officer, SWD, who had been monitoring the situation in the inter-departmental emergency response team. When the road was blocked by a landslide in Nam Shan Village last year, SKDO had maintained communication with SWD to support the elderly or needy in the village. Additionally, she sincerely thanked colleagues of SKDO and works departments, workers of their contractors and the frontline staff. Apart from the circumstances where it was inadvisable to work under the Black Rainstorm Warning or the Gale or Storm Signal No. 8 because of safety reasons, they remained committed to their posts during other inclement weather warnings. Even when there was localised torrential rain in the district, they still worked very diligently for the public at large. Once again, she thanked Members and the Care Teams for exchanging district-related information with SKDO, so as to enable various departments to focus their resources and cope with contingencies according to their priorities. The departments responded very quickly to the rainstorm this time. The release of information by Members and the Care Teams for sub-districts and the residents concerned was quicker than that as reported by the news. Thus, the notification mechanism proved highly effective. She added that, apart from obtaining information through HKO's mobile application, members of the public could also view weather reports and receive constantly-updated traffic information by downloading the "GovHK Notifications" mobile application. Members were then invited to do more promotion on these mobile applications in the district. She believed that relevant departments and Members could all learn from the experience of 4 May. Having coped with the emergencies, they would subsequently carry out major follow-up work properly. SKDO and various departments would in no way slacken their pace in response to the typhoon season in the future. If Members were aware of any local issues requiring attention and follow-up actions, they were requested to provide relevant information as soon as possible. SKDO would coordinate site visits and take proper precautionary measures with relevant departments.

124. There being no objection from Members, the Chairman declared that the above motion was passed. The views of SKDC would be relayed to HyD, DLO/SK, DSD and FEHD in writing.

VI. Date of Next Meeting

125. The next full council meeting was scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on 2 July 2024 (Tuesday).

126. The meeting ended at 1:15 p.m.

Sai Kung District Council Secretariat
July 2024