

(Translation)

**Minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Southern District Council (SDC)**  
**(2024-2027)**

Date : 19 September 2024  
Time : 2:30 p.m.  
Venue : SDC Conference Room

**Present:**

Mr CHENG Kong-chung, Francis, JP Chairman  
District Officer (Southern)  
Mr CHU Lap-wai, MH  
Ms HO Yuen-wei  
Ms LI Ka-ying  
Ms LAM Yuk-chun, BBS, MH  
Ms LAM Wing-yan  
Ms LAM Wing-yee  
Mr CHEUNG Chin-chung  
Mr CHEUNG Wai-nam  
Mr Jonathan LEUNG Chun, MH  
Mr CHAN Man-chun, JP  
Professor CHAN Yuk-kit, MH, JP  
Ms CHAN Wing-yan  
Mr PANG Siu-kei  
Mr WONG Choi-lap  
Ms WONG Yu-ching, Nicole  
Mr YEUNG Sheung-chun  
Mr CHAO Howard  
Mr LAU Ngai, Victor  
Mr SIU Wai-chung  
Mr LAI Ka-chi



## **Agenda Item 1: Southern District Members' Meeting with Commissioner of Police**

1. The Chairman welcomed Mr SIU Chak-yeo, PDSM, PMSM, Commissioner of Police, Mr LEUNG Lincoln, District Commander (Western District), and Mr WAN Fu-kwan, Nelson, Police Community Relations Officer (Western District) of Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF), to the meeting.
2. The Chairman gave a speech as follows:
  - (i) He would like to express his gratitude to the Commissioner of Police for taking the time to attend the SDC meeting and engage with the SDC members. The current-term District Council was the first following the implementation of the enhanced district governance system, which focused on handling livelihood matters. He was thankful to HKPF for their continued partnership with SDC, the Southern District Office (SDO), the District Fight Crime Committee of the Southern District (DFCC), and the District Services and Community Care Teams in the Southern District (Care Teams) in jointly combating and preventing crime;
  - (ii) The Southern District had one of the lowest crime rates in Hong Kong. This was due to the dedicated leadership of Mr LEUNG Lincoln, District Commander (Western District), and Miss IP Ka-yee, Deputy District Commander (Western District), who had worked tirelessly with their team to combat crime and maintain good public order in the Southern District;
  - (iii) At the district level, HKPF had actively collaborated with other Government Departments and local organisations to organise various community activities with the aim of promoting anti-drug messages to young people. This helped to raise their awareness of self-protection and prevent them from falling victim to drugs. Earlier, the Chairman, along with SDC members, DFCC members and the Care Teams, had attended Hong Kong Island's Crime Prevention Forum to better understand HKPF's work;
  - (iv) HKPF and the Care Teams had worked seamlessly together. The Care Teams had assisted HKPF in disseminating anti-deception messages to residents via social media and by setting up street booths. In addition, the Care Teams had participated in a rescue drill organised by HKPF earlier this year, which had enhanced the Care Teams' emergency response capabilities;

- (v) In terms of safeguarding national security, SDO, DFCC, the Southern District Youth Development and Civic Education Committee, and district organisations had worked closely with HKPF to promote national security awareness and enhance national identity through activities such as slogan design competitions; and
- (vi) Looking ahead, SDO, SDC and the Care Teams would continue to support and collaborate with HKPF in their work.

3. The Chairman invited the Commissioner of Police to briefly introduce the work of HKPF.

4. Mr SIU Chak-yeo, PDSM, PMSM, briefly introduced the work of HKPF, including the number of cases and detection rates of various types of crimes, anti-crime measures and publicity activities, as follows:

### **Crime Situation in Hong Kong**

- (i) In the first seven months of 2024, the overall crime figure of Hong Kong reached 54 194, an increase of 7.9% compared to the same period of the previous year. There were 6 078 violent crimes, an increase of 8.3%;
- (ii) The crime types that saw an increase were primarily deception, theft and blackmail. However, other crime types such as homicide, robbery, serious drug offences and arson saw a decrease in numbers;
- (iii) The overall crime detection rate stood at 25.6%. Leaving deception cases aside, the detection rate was 43.9%;

### **Deception**

- (iv) In the first seven months of 2024, a total of 24 407 deception cases were recorded, representing an increase of 2 609 cases, or 12%, compared to the same period of the previous year. Approximately 60% of these cases involved online scams;
- (v) Deception cases accounted for about 45% of the overall crime rate, with the total monetary loss amounting to HK\$5.14 billion;
- (vi) The rise in deception cases was mainly attributed to the emergence of the “Fake Customer Service” scams in early 2024, in which fraudsters impersonated customer

service representatives from online shopping platforms, payment systems, and telecommunications service providers. In the first seven months of 2024, a total of 2 716 such scams were recorded. However, 1 111 of these were recorded in July 2024 alone, indicating a further surge. Overall, in the first seven months of 2024, deception cases rose by 2 609 compared to the same period of the previous year. Leaving “Fake Customer Service” scams aside, the number of other types of deception cases remained largely unchanged or had slightly decreased;

- (vii) Comparing the first seven months of 2021, 2022 and 2023, the increases in deception cases were 51% and 39%, respectively, while the increase in 2024 was 12%. The figure suggested a slight slowdown in the rate of increase;
- (viii) Fraud industry chain mainly involved two key elements: first, contacting victims through telecommunications networks, and second, using mule accounts to collect fraud proceeds and launder money. Regarding telecommunications networks, HKPF, in collaboration with the Office of Communications Authority (OFCA) and major telecommunications service providers, set up a special task force in September 2022 and implemented a series of measures to hinder fraudsters in using telecommunications systems for scams. For example, based on the database provided by HKPF, telecommunications service providers blocked the calls from or suspended the services of phone numbers which had been involved in scams. Telecommunications service providers also intercepted suspicious overseas calls from phone numbers with the prefix “+852” and sent SMS or voice alerts to the public to remind them to stay vigilant. The task force continued to meet regularly;
- (ix) Due to the effectiveness of these measures in combating suspicious overseas calls, fraudsters had switched to using local phone numbers. In response, HKPF launched an operation and dismantled four operational hubs in late August 2024, arresting 11 persons, including six Malaysian men. During the operation, 87 modem pools and over 80 000 prepaid SIM cards were seized. Investigations revealed that the fraud syndicate recruited culprits to enter Hong Kong as tourists to help operate the platform. With the aid of modem pools, overseas fraudsters could make scam calls or send fraudulent text messages using the local SIM cards registered by their gangs in Hong Kong under false identities. HKPF believed that these SIM cards were involved in around 400 “Fake Customer Service” scams, with total proceeds exceeding HK\$60 million;
- (x) Regarding the mule accounts involved in the fraud industry chain, 6 370 persons were

arrested in the first seven months of 2024 for involvement in scams and related money laundering offences. Nearly 5 000 of those arrested were mule account holders. HKPF had expedited the prosecution process and applied to the court to increase the sentence. As at 31 August, the terms of imprisonment of 15 persons had been increased by 10% to 30%. In addition, from May to July, HKPF conducted joint operations with Mainland law enforcement agencies, arresting 244 persons across both regions. These persons were suspected of recruiting and arranging Mainlanders to come to Hong Kong to open mule accounts, which were involved in 535 scams in Hong Kong. HKPF would continue to strengthen intelligence-sharing and conduct joint operations with other law enforcement agencies to combat deception in due course;

- (xi) HKPF also noticed that some fraud syndicates were recruiting foreign domestic helpers to open virtual bank accounts for money laundering purposes. Furthermore, some of them were shamelessly using the guise of distributing donations to lure the elderly into providing personal details to open mule accounts. In May, HKPF arrested 33 foreign domestic helpers involved in such activities, and in late August, eight persons were arrested for deceiving the elderly into providing their personal details for illegal purposes;
- (xii) In view of the large number of victims who had transferred money to fraudsters via electronic payment platforms, HKPF had collaborated with the banking sector to launch the “Faster Payment System (FPS) Suspicious Proxy ID Alert” in November 2023. Within just eight months since its launch, over 680 000 alerts were issued. When members of the public transferred money to a suspicious account via FPS, an alert would be issued based on the records in the database. From August onwards, the initiative was extended to cover transactions at bank counters and via online banking. HKPF planned to extend the scope to cover ATMs by the first quarter of 2025 to better safeguard the interests of the public;
- (xiii) As at the end of July 2024, HKPF’s mobile app “Scameter+” had recorded over 4.39 million searches and issued about 655 000 warnings about scam or cybersecurity risks. The upgraded version of “Scameter+”, with new functions such as call alerts and a public reporting platform, was launched in February 2024. As at the end of July, more than 523 000 downloads were recorded. It was hoped that more members of the public would download and make use of this app to reduce the risk of falling victim to scams;
- (xiv) In terms of anti-scam education and publicity, “Anti-Deception Month” and “Anti-

“Money Laundering Month” campaigns were held in August 2024, coupled with a series of activities such as press conferences and the release of new anti-scam promotional videos and anti-money laundering comics. HKPF also held anti-deception seminars for newly-arrived university students from the Mainland;

### **Homicide**

- (xv) In the first seven months of 2024, a total of 15 homicides were recorded, a decrease of one case compared to the same period of the previous year. Among these, eight cases involved violence within families or between intimate partners, while the remaining seven were related to disputes among friends, industrial accidents, or financial disagreements. HKPF had successfully detected all these homicide cases;

### **Wounding and Serious Assault**

- (xvi) In the first seven months of 2024, a total of 2 121 wounding and serious assault cases were recorded, similar to the same period of the previous year, with around 9.2% of the cases being related to triads;

### **Robbery**

- (xvii) In the first seven months of 2024, there were 54 robbery cases, demonstrating a 17% decrease compared to the same period of the previous year. The detection rate was 85%, the highest since records began in 1992;

### **Burglary**

- (xviii) In the first seven months of 2024, 749 burglary cases were recorded, an increase of 6.5% compared to the same period of the previous year, with a significant rise in burglaries involving village houses. In response, HKPF carried out a series of anti-burglary operations, especially in areas with a higher concentration of village houses. HKPF also worked with the Government Flying Service to conduct aerial patrols using drones, and searched remote mountainous areas to uncover potential hideouts of burglars;
- (xix) Intelligence-led law enforcement actions by HKPF had proven effective. In the first

seven months of 2024, 222 persons were arrested, a 22% increase compared to the same period of the previous year. In the first quarter of 2024, overall burglary cases increased by 56%, and the total monetary loss rose by 30%. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of the force members, as at the end of July, the increase in overall burglary cases had slowed significantly, with a modest rise of only 6.5%, and the monetary loss had halved. This decrease was mainly due to a 60% drop in residential burglary cases. Although burglary cases in village houses had risen by as much as 180% in the first quarter, as at the end of July the increase had slowed to around 75%. HKPF opined that there was room for improvement and it would continue to strengthen its anti-burglary efforts in areas with a higher concentration of village houses;

## **Theft**

- (xx) In the first seven months of 2024, a total of 13 478 theft cases were recorded, a slight increase of 3.5% compared to the same period of the previous year, with the rise mainly attributed to an increase in shop thefts. As such, HKPF held a press conference in July 2024 to report the situation and reminded the public not to be tempted by momentary greed. In the same month, HKPF also held a sharing session for businesses, encouraging them to make use of technology to enhance their security systems;
- (xxi) Theft cases saw a 27% increase in 2023, with a nearly 10% rise in the first quarter of 2024. Most of these cases were shop thefts, with the remainder being miscellaneous thefts. However, as at the end of July, the increase in these two categories of theft cases had dropped by 14% and less than 1%, respectively. HKPF would continue its anti-theft efforts;

## **Blackmail**

- (xxii) In the first seven months of 2024, a total of 1 723 blackmail cases were recorded, an increase of 445 cases compared to the same period of the previous year. The majority of the increase was related to “naked chat” scams, with 1 365 cases recorded, an increase of 378 cases;
- (xxiii) As the victims were mainly students, HKPF’s Public Relations Wing had published an updated version of Youth Crime Prevention Booklet (2024 Edition), which discussed the risks of “naked chat” scams to help teachers to explain the topic to students;

## **Sexual Offences**

(xxiv) In the first seven months of 2024, there were 41 rape cases, an increase of 15 cases compared to the same period of the previous year, all committed by acquaintances. For indecent assault, 671 cases were recorded, a slight increase of 2.6%, with nearly 60% of these cases occurring in public places or on the MTR. The detection rate was 74%;

## **Serious Drug Offences**

(xxv) In the first seven months of 2024, 675 serious drug offences were recorded, a 2.5% decrease. A total of 78 juveniles were arrested, a 25% decrease compared to the same period of the previous year, with 18 of them being local students, representing a 31% decrease;

(xxvi) Despite improvements in the situation of serious drug offences, HKPF would continue to intensify its anti-drug efforts. During the summer break this year, HKPF carried out a territory-wide enforcement operation, arresting 262 persons, 33 of whom were juveniles involved in various drug offences, including four online drug trafficking cases. During the operation, 1 366 kilograms of various drugs were seized;

## **Triad-Related Crimes**

(xxvii) In the first seven months of 2024, 1 149 triad-related crimes were recorded, an increase of 9%;

(xxviii) From June to August, the police forces of Guangdong Province, Hong Kong and Macao carried out a large-scale tripartite operation “Thunderbolt 2024”, during which HKPF arrested 4 320 persons and seized cash and drugs valued at approximately HK\$800 million;

(xxix) Regarding the involvement of Mainland visitors in triad-related crimes, HKPF arrested 1 070 Mainland visitors in the first seven months of 2024, an increase of around 283 compared to the same period of the previous year. This increase was mainly due to the significant rise in visitors from the Mainland after the epidemic. Among the arrested Mainland visitors, the number of persons involved in scams or related money

laundering crimes rose by 210, with nearly 90% of them being mule account holders. HKPF would continue to exchange intelligence with Mainland law enforcement agencies to combat relevant crimes;

### **Juvenile Crimes**

- (xxx) In the first seven months of 2024, 1 740 juveniles were arrested for criminal offences, which remained similar to the previous year. The number of cases involving deception, miscellaneous thefts and shop thefts showed an increase;
- (xxxi) HKPF had always been committed to promoting crime prevention education among young people by organising various activities through the Junior Police Call to cultivate young people to become partners in crime reduction. During the summer break this year, in addition to hosting its annual summer camp, the Junior Police Call arranged for over 1 000 members to participate in approximately 30 exchange groups visiting various cities in mainland China, enabling members to gain an in-depth understanding of our Country's technological advancements;
- (xxxii) In addition to publishing an updated edition of Youth Crime Prevention Booklet, HKPF collaborated with the Education University of Hong Kong at the start of the new academic year to produce teaching materials, including youth crime prevention videos;

### **Law and Order in the Southern District**

- (xxxiii) In the first seven months of 2024, the overall crime figure in the Southern District was 709, an increase of 56 compared to the same period of the previous year. The detection rate was 29%. The crime types that recorded an increase were mainly deception and criminal damage, while theft, indecent assault, robbery, and wounding and serious assault saw a decrease. 36 juveniles were arrested for criminal offences, a decrease of 7.7% compared to the previous year;
- (xxxiv) HKPF had been working closely with stakeholders to prevent crime and strengthen community ties, such as collaborating with the Housing Department (HD) to enhance security in public housing estates and promoting the “戶戶居安計劃” (an anti-crime scheme for public housing). Besides, the Western District Junior Police Call held various activities in recent months, including summer camps as well as visits to the National Security Exhibition Gallery and the City Gallery. It also participated in the

parent-child activities during Yu Lan Cultural Festival; and

### **Safeguarding National Security**

(xxxv) Since the implementation of the Law of the People’s Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, as at the end of July 2024, HKPF had arrested 301 persons, approximately 60% of whom had been prosecuted.

5. Mr SIU Chak-yee, PDSM, PMSM, indicated that the overall crime figure for the first seven months of 2024 had increased by 7.9% compared to the same period of the previous year, primarily due to a rise in cases of deception, theft and blackmail. However, the number of other crimes, such as homicide, robbery, serious drug offences, wounding and serious assault, and arson, had dropped. The overall law and order remained favourable. He thanked the district personalities and local residents for supporting HKPF’s work, emphasising that combating crime relied on the cooperation of the public and the community. He hoped that SDC would continue to assist HKPF in promoting crime prevention and anti-crime messages to the public.

6. The Chairman thanked the Commissioner of Police for sharing the information and invited SDC members to raise comments or enquiries.

7. Mr Jonathan LEUNG Chun, MH, raised the following comments:

(i) He thanked the Commissioner of Police for sharing the information. He also agreed that deception had become a growing trend in crimes, with various modus operandi ranging from the earlier “Guess Who” to the later “Pretend Mainland Officials” being so prevalent. Now, there were even “Fake Customer Service” scams. This indicated that the fraud syndicates had constantly turned to different defrauding tricks and had begun to industrialise and professionalise their fraudulent activities. The diverse and evolving modus operandi had led to many members of the public, including those living in the Southern District, falling victim and suffering significant losses. The increase in cases also imposed a greater workload on HKPF;

- (ii) He opined that HKPF had invested substantial resources in disseminating crime prevention and anti-crime messages; without these efforts, the crime figure might have been even higher. The progressive achievements made in these areas were commendable and deserved recognition, but these messages had not reached many members of the public yet and it was necessary to raise their awareness about the modus operandi used by fraudsters and remind them to stay vigilant;
- (iii) Fraudulent crimes were considered a product of the new era. With scams on the rise, it was hoped that more members of the public would be aware of the severity of the situation and understand that it was not just the elderly who fell victim to these crimes;
- (iv) In the cases he recently dealt with, many of the victims were new arrivals, including those entrants admitted under the “Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals”. Due to their unfamiliarity with the situation in Hong Kong, they might be more susceptible to scams than other members of the public. It was hoped that HKPF could take note of this and disseminate anti-deception messages through social media platforms commonly used by these new arrivals (such as Xiaohongshu, Douyin and WeChat); and
- (v) He hoped that HKPF could encourage young people to relay crime prevention and anti-crime messages to their elders at home. Moreover, he opined that a multi-pronged approach should be adopted to ensure a more comprehensive coverage of preventive measures and to raise public vigilance against new types of scams.

8. Professor CHAN Yuk-kit, MH, JP, cited a case relating to building maintenance works that occurred two to three years ago in the Southern District. At that time, while he was participating in the decision-making for the building maintenance works of a housing estate, a flat was splashed with red paint . He immediately reported the case to HKPF. HKPF promptly attended the scene for investigation and swiftly arrested the suspect. When SDC members became involved in building management matters at the encouragement of SDO, they might encounter building management-related crimes. He asked HKPF how SDC members should respond to such crimes and suggested that HKPF should conduct seminars or produce teaching materials to share their views with SDC members on how to handle these crimes.

9. Concerning the written question jointly raised by him and Mr CHAO Howard prior to the meeting, Mr LAI Ka-chi said that HKPF had provided a written reply with sufficient information. He further raised the following questions about scams:

- (i) Recently, they had received several suspected scam calls, but when checking the phone numbers using “Scameter+”, they found that these calls were classified as “low risk”, presumably because fraudsters were using new phone numbers. He asked whether HKPF would collaborate with OFCA to issue alerts to the public about suspicious or high-risk calls; and
- (ii) Lately, fraudsters also exploited Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology to simulate voices, causing members of the public, in particular the elderly, to mistake callers for acquaintances and thus fall victim to scams. He hoped HKPF would attach importance to this and provide specific solutions for the elderly.

10. Ms CHAN Wing-yan raised the following comments:

- (i) Over the past few years, crimes in the Southern District had been swiftly solved, with residents expressing full appreciation for the work of HKPF, particularly the Western District Police Community Relations Office;
- (ii) The crime figures associated with online and phone scams were alarming. Although HKPF had widely publicised the issues and explained the latest modus operandi used by fraudsters through its programmes such as Offbeat 120s, it was hoped that HKPF could collaborate with property management companies or the HD to explore the possibility of showing these promotional videos at the entrances of building podiums or lobbies so as to enhance public education; and
- (iii) It was very common for the fraudsters to use text messages to defraud people. Members of the public might be cautious about suspicious calls, but they were less vigilant about text messages, especially those messages or web links received through instant messaging applications. As such, they might easily fall into the traps set by fraudsters. Therefore, it was hoped that HKPF and OFCA could explore ways to help the public identify fraudulent text messages to prevent them from falling into the traps of phishing websites and so on.

11. Mr SIU Chak-yeo, PDSM, PMSM, gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (i) Fraudulent activities were not only confined to Hong Kong but were also acknowledged by law enforcement agencies worldwide as a universal criminal trend. During various

international conferences and the discussions among police forces from different parts of the world, high-ranking officers of HKPF and their global counterparts unanimously agreed that scams were the most challenging issue they were facing now. In July 2023, HKPF sent representatives to an international conference focusing on scam prevention. According to the organiser's estimation, the global economic loss arising from scams in 2022 was approximately one trillion US Dollars. During their exchanges, it was also found that the modus operandi of scams were largely similar across different regions;

- (ii) HKPF had disseminated information through multiple channels, including various media outlets, social media platforms, the television programme Offbeat 120s, and other popular programmes. Despite the extensive promotional efforts made by HKPF, the key to the issue was whether the public could truly understand the modus operandi of fraudsters and grasp the strategies to protect themselves from scams;
- (iii) He emphasised the importance of “tripartite collaboration” between HKPF, stakeholders and the public. While HKPF was responsible for intelligence gathering, law enforcement and public education, telecommunications services providers and the banking sector were also vital stakeholders. In September 2022, HKPF and major telecommunications services providers established a task force to regular meet and discuss strategies against the latest fraudulent modus operandi. The task force had continued its operation to this day. HKPF had maintained close collaboration with the banking sector as well. Approximately one year ago, the banking sector began assigning representatives daily to participate in the routine operation of the Anti-Deception Coordination Centre (ADCC). Whenever HKPF or the banks detected any suspicious transactions, the banks would promptly halt the transactions to prevent further loss to the victims. HKPF opined that the performance of the ADCC had been remarkably effective, with better-than-expected results in intercepting suspicious transactions. HKPF would continue to maintain liaison with key stakeholders;
- (iv) Another important part of the “tripartite collaboration” was the general public. From the experiences shared by SDC members and through the interactions with the public, HKPF observed that some members of the public overlooked HKPF's messages. The majority of victims were confident that they would not fall prey to scams and thus disregarded the anti-scam information. In a world saturated with information, people were inundated with vast amounts of data daily, and fraudsters often seized the moment when someone was briefly distracted. Consequently, the police urged the public to actively discuss and share anti-scam information with those around them, to prevent

them from losing their lifetime savings or incurring significant debts due to deception. It was essential for the public to cultivate an awareness of deception and remind each other of anti-scam information; otherwise, no matter how much publicity efforts were made, it would just be water off a duck's back;

- (v) HKPF appealed to all members of the public to beware of scams, emphasising that fraudsters would target everyone regardless of their age, educational level and profession. In fact, the proportion of elderly people falling victim to scams was lower than that of other age groups;
- (vi) In view of the instances where non-local students or working individuals fell victim to scams, HKPF would disseminate anti-scam messages through websites or social media platforms commonly used by these individuals, such as Xiaohongshu and Douyin. However, the crux of the matter still relied on their awareness of HKPF's messages and cooperation;
- (vii) HKPF's anti-scam mascot, "The Little Grape", served to remind the public to look out for scams and share the concept with the people around them. HKPF opined that the public should, in addition to having anti-scam knowledge, familiarise themselves with the modus operandi of fraudsters so as to protect themselves. Whenever new fraudulent modus operandi were identified locally or in neighbouring regions, HKPF would inform the public through various platforms as soon as possible. Currently, HKPF were disseminating anti-scam messages through nine social media platforms, such as Facebook, Instagram and Douyin;
- (viii) "Scameter+" helped the public to identify scams and online pitfalls. The public should stay alert whenever a call or website was flagged as suspicious or dangerous regardless of the risk level, no matter if it was labelled as "low risk" or "no record found". Even if it was labelled as "no record found", it did not guarantee that the call or website was risk-free. HKPF would continue to liaise with OFCA to update and enhance the search tool in a timely manner;
- (ix) At present, three AI-related scams involving the so-called "deepfake" technology were recorded in Hong Kong. While technical advancements could improve the quality of our lives, they could also be exploited by lawbreakers as an instrument of crime. In light of this, in late 2022, HKPF established the Cybercrime Policing Advisory Panel. 12 experts and leaders from the technology field and various sectors were invited to explore the risks of AI-related crimes and scams, including those involving "deepfake"

technology, and discuss the response methods together, with the aim of raising public awareness of the potential risks of AI;

- (x) To enhance its professional capability, HKPF had conducted various internal training sessions and exchanged experiences with law enforcement agencies worldwide with a view to improving the investigation skills of the force members. Also, HKPF had been actively combating different online crimes through regular online patrol and law enforcement action. If a website was found to be involved in deception, such as containing fraudulent content generated by “deepfake” technology or scams in its advertisements, videos and posts, HKPF would immediately request the relevant advertising agencies and website administrators to remove the advertisements concerned;
- (xi) Besides disseminating anti-scam information to the elderly through talks and television programmes, HKPF had also set up promotional booths at the Hong Kong Brands and Products Expo as well as other community activities. A range of publicity activities were also organised under the “Senior Police Call Scheme”. Apart from that, the Care Teams would also help to distribute anti-scam leaflets to the community and the elderly during home visits;
- (xii) In respect of the publicity in housing estates managed by the HD, anti-scam videos were shown on the display panels in the lobbies. HKPF would continue to work with the HD and release the latest information through these videos;
- (xiii) HKPF sought to help the public to ascertain the authenticity of the text messages. Currently, text messages from Government Departments or the banks would contain the prefix “#” in the sender ID to indicate that the senders were registered organisations on the records held by OFCA. Although the measure had a limited coverage at the moment, HKPF would strive to take the work forward;
- (xiv) HKPF attached great importance to crimes relating to building management and had connected with the HD and property management companies. In this regard, a “Task Force Hotline” (Hotline) had been set up in each Police District. Members of the Task Force were responsible for conducting anti-crime operations in their respective Police Districts. In a bid to prevent crime at source, security personnel were advised to call the Hotline or 999 as soon as they spotted any suspicious individuals, instead of reporting the crime afterwards. For instance, the Peak Sub-Division Task Force once received a call from a security guard who suspected that someone was hiding in the bushes. The Task Force immediately responded to the call, and eventually arrested the

lurking suspect and seized a video camera from his vehicle. Investigations revealed that the suspect was planning to “collect debts” from one of the flats in the property. This was a good example of crime prevention; and

(xv) The daily operation of building management often included maintenance, cleaning, management and so on. As tendering and contract formulation involved considerable pecuniary advantage, the procurement process was prone to become a target of lawbreakers. Therefore, HKPF had already implemented a series of measures, including proactive and early intervention in major maintenance works of Owners' Corporations and property management companies, as well as establishing good communication with them. To ensure that the tendering process of building maintenance works was transparent, open and easy-to-monitor, HKPF had joined with a number of Government Departments and public bodies, such as the Buildings Department, the Fire Services Department, the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department, the Competition Commission and the Independent Commission Against Corruption, in launching the interdepartmental “RenoSafe Scheme” for intelligence sharing. In addition, HKPF had set up a 24-hour District Anti-Triad Section hotline to encourage residents to report relevant crimes.

12. The Chairman asked SDC members whether they had further enquiries.

13. No SDC members had further enquiries.

14. The Chairman thanked the Commissioner of Police and the HKPF representatives for attending the meeting and exchanging views with SDC members.

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**Agenda Item 2: Confirmation of the Draft Minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> SDC meeting held on 4 July 2024**

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15. The Chairman said that the captioned minutes had been circulated to SDC members for comments prior to the meeting. The Secretariat had not received any amendment proposals so far.

16. The Chairman asked SDC members whether to confirm the captioned minutes.

17. The Chairman said that SDC confirmed the captioned minutes.

**Agenda Item 3: Discovering the Southern District: Pandas Everywhere (SDC Paper No. 21/2024)**

18. The Chairman asked SDC members whether they needed to declare interests in respect of this agenda item.

19. Mr Jonathan LEUNG Chun, MH declared that he was a member of the Board of the Ocean Park Corporation (“Ocean Park”).

20. The Chairman said that this agenda item had no connection with the personal interests of Mr Jonathan LEUNG Chun, MH, hence he could still take part in the discussion of this agenda item.

21. The Chairman welcomed Mr Matthew TAM, Intrapreneurship & Talent Development CSR Manager of Ocean Park, to the meeting.

22. The Chairman said that Mr XIA Baolong, the Director of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, had advised earlier that Hong Kong should materialise the concept of “Tourism is everywhere in Hong Kong”. To proactively embrace Mr XIA’s point and seize the opportune time for the development of the local economy, the Working Group on Boosting Local Economy (WGBLE) under SDC planned to launch a series of activities to promote the local economy and the characteristic tourism in the Southern District. Details were given in SDC Paper No. 21/2024.

23. The Chairman invited Mr CHEUNG Chin-chung, the Chairman of WGBLE, to briefly introduce the agenda item.

24. Mr CHEUNG Chin-chung and Mr CHEUNG Wai-nam, with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, briefly introduced the activities of “Discovering the Southern District: Pandas Everywhere” as follows:

- (i) The activities to promote the local economy and the characteristic tourism in the Southern District included: publishing a travel guide entitled “Tourism is Everywhere: The Southern District Travel Tips”; organising Local Tours of 18 Districts in Celebration of 75A, panda-themed decorated sampan rides and festive lights displays and a panda drawing competition for primary and secondary schools; launching a panda bus, panda-shaped snacks and a special edition of “LeRain” (the mascot of the Southern District); distributing National Day souvenirs; and setting up outdoor bunting and photo-taking spots under the theme of giant pandas;
- (ii) The purposes of the above activities were to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China, to involve visitors and members of the public in the joyful atmosphere of the National Day, to deepen their understanding of the history and culture of China as well as to materialise the concept of “Tourism is everywhere in Hong Kong”. On 1 July 2024, the Central Government announced gifting of another pair of giant pandas to Hong Kong and the pair would reside at Ocean Park in the Southern District. Their arrival did not only bring to the Southern District more jubilation and positivity, but also strengthened Hong Kong people’s sense of national identity and awareness of nature conservation; and
- (iii) Publicity channels for the activities were set out in the PowerPoint presentation. SDC members were invited to comment on the above activities.

25. The Chairman said that the activities were more than about celebration of the National Day and the four new national-treasure giant pandas in the Southern District. People would also be attracted to the Southern District to sight-see, spend and discover the traditional culture of the Southern District, giving a boost to the local economy.

26. The Chairman invited SDC members to raise comments or enquiries.

27. Ms CHAN Wing-yan confirmed her support to organising the above activities. She opined that the panda bus would appeal to bus enthusiasts in the Southern District. She added that the panda bus ran on Route 75 during the morning and evening sessions, with only a total of six trips per day. She advised that WGBLE consider extending the themed bus ride to more Southern District bus routes other than Route 75 so that more local residents could enjoy a ride.

28. Mr CHEUNG Wai-nam responded that to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China, the panda bus ran not only on Route 75 during selected sessions, but also on Route 73 during other hours. He added that Route 73 was highly iconic. Starting from Stanley Market, the route would pass by Wong Chuk Hang, Aberdeen, Tin Wan, Wah Fu, Wah Kwai and Cyberport, covering the entire Southern District as well as quite a few tourist spots. SDC members were welcome to invite the public for a ride on the panda bus to celebrate the National Day and the new giant pandas.

29. Ms LAM Wing-yan opined that the activities could effectively promote the “panda economy” and the development of tourism in the Southern District. Visitors would be attracted to cultural activities with local characteristics and to different tourist spots, e.g. Aberdeen Typhoon Shelter, Aberdeen Promenade, Ocean Park, Deep Water Bay and Repulse Bay. She hoped that there would be more panda-themed activities to promote the “panda economy” in the future.

30. The Chairman invited the Ocean Park representative to speak.

31. Mr Matthew TAM was pleased that SDC members were excited about the arrival of the four new giant pandas and Ocean Park would keep updating the public on the pandas’ latest situation. He hoped that the new panda members could bring about renewed vitality at Ocean Park. He mentioned that “Celebrating the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China – Kick-off ceremony for visiting Southern District” would be held at Ocean Park on the following day. He wished it a success.

32. The Chairman thanked the Ocean Park representative for attending the meeting. He was pleased that all SDC members supported holding the series of activities of “Discovering the Southern District: Pandas Everywhere” to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China and promote the local economy.

**Agenda Item 4: Vacant Shops and the Use of Non-domestic Facilities in the Southern District**

**(Including agenda items on “Concern over the Vacancy Rate of Shops in the Southern District” raised by Ms HO Yuen-wei and Ms WONG**

**Yu-Ching and “Discussion about the Flexible Use of Non-domestic Premises of the Hong Kong Housing Authority” raised by Mr CHU Lap-wai, MH, Ms LI Ka-ying, Mr WONG Choi-lap, Professor CHAN Yuk-kit, MH, Mr LAU Ngai, Victor, Mr SIU Wai-chung, Mr CHEUNG Wai-nam and Mr YEUNG Sheung-chun)**  
**(SDC Paper No. 22/2024)**

33. The Chairman welcomed the following representatives of Government Departments to the meeting:
  - (i) Miss LEUNG Wai-kuen, District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Southern) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD);
  - (ii) Mr TO Chak-foo, Chief Manager / Management (Hong Kong Island & Islands Region) of the HD; and
  - (iii) Ms CHOW Suk-ling, Vera, Senior Housing Manager / HKI2 / MC1 of HD.
34. The Chairman said that prior to the meeting, the following SDC members had made requests to discuss the following items at the meeting:
  - (i) “Concern over the Vacancy Rate of Shops in the Southern District” (**Item I**) raised by Ms HO Yuen-wei and Ms WONG Yu-ching; and
  - (ii) “Discussion about the Flexible Use of Non-domestic Premises of the Hong Kong Housing Authority” (**Item II**) raised by Mr CHU Lap-wai, MH, Ms LI Ka-ying, Mr WONG Choi-lap, Professor CHAN Yuk-kit, MH, Mr LAU Ngai, Victor, Mr SIU Wai-chung, Mr CHEUNG Wai-nam and Mr YEUNG Sheung-chun.
35. Ms HO Yuen-wei, with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, briefly introduced Item I and commented that:
  - (i) Relevant Government Departments should strengthen the management of shopping centres and markets under their management with adjustment to the business hours. The Departments might also consider, as a token of support to young people in starting up their own businesses, leasing vacant shops and stalls to them on short-term or temporary tenancies. Additionally, in line with the Well Being · Start-Up programme

launched by the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA), quotas on rent-free shops or the number of fair stalls could be increased in support of youth entrepreneur. Moreover, to stimulate spending and boost visits, the Government might utilise the display screens available in its venues to publicise Government policies or disseminate the latest information, such as to promote seasonal products;

- (ii) Government Departments should conduct a comprehensive study on how to re-organise market stalls with respect to goods variety and zoning. Taking Aberdeen Market as an example, all the stalls could be placed on the ground and first floors, vacating the second floor for use as community facilities. The move could help to address the problem of an ageing population in the Southern District; and
- (iii) In view of the then economic situation, it was not desirable to request additional resources from the Government. It was proposed that vacant shops and stalls be utilised flexibly to improve public livelihood on the condition that no additional public expenditure would be committed.

36. Mr SIU Wai-chung briefly introduced Item II.

37. The Chairman invited the FEHD representative to respond.

38. Miss LEUNG Wai-kuen said that FEHD had given a written reply as attached at Annex 3. She added the following:

- (i) FEHD would timely adjust the trade mix of its markets or add new elements as appropriate to better meet the needs of tenants and the public;
- (ii) Market stall rentals would continue to be adjusted in accordance with the existing rental adjustment mechanism; and
- (iii) FEHD would bolster publicity of its markets through social media, and would continue to closely monitor their operation and introduce timely measures to improve the business environment for tenants.

39. The Chairman invited the HD representatives to respond.

40. Ms CHOW Suk-ling, Vera gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (i) Commercial premises of HA were normally let by way of tender, with tenderers bidding rents according to their own business strategies. As for tenancy renewal, before the expiry of a tenancy, HA would refer to the rental information of comparable lettings in HA and the private market and take into account various factors affecting rental value in determining the renewal rent;
- (ii) To enhance the business environment of its shopping centres and markets and to draw more visits and patronage, HA had from time to time offered rewards to stimulate spending. For example, starting 1 July 2024, about 100 housing estates / shopping centres of HA, including Wah Fu (I) Estate and Wah Fu (II) Estate, had launched the “Local Shopping Spree” scheme to provide free parking offers for customers who had met the spending requirements;
- (iii) On publicity and promotion, HA organised activities such as gift redemption, large-scale games, snacks and game booths in its shopping centres and markets during major festivals and special occasions. Festive decorations were also set up to enhance the shopping ambience and boost footfall. Earlier, HD organised the “Dream on Stage” competition at Wah Fu (I) Shopping Centre to allow young people to showcase their talents, and to bring more patronage to the shopping centre;
- (iv) To encourage and support young people in pursuing their entrepreneurial dreams, HA had recently launched the Well Being · Start-Up programme to provide shop premises in HA’s shopping centres rent-free[KKYW1] for young people to trial their business plans. HD hoped that the vigour and creativity of young people would fuel the diversification of choices of goods for residents and contribute to a better shopping experience for customers. More visits should be driven to the shopping centres for the benefit of both residents and tenants. HD would continue to review the results of the programme and make corresponding adjustments and enhancements as necessary;
- (v) As regards the flexible use of HA’s non-domestic premises, HA’s primary objective was to assist low-income families with housing needs to gain access to affordable housing, and to provide them with good management, proper maintenance and other housing-related services. HA would also provide other facilities such as retail shops, welfare facilities and car parks as appropriate to cater for the daily needs of residents; and
- (vi) Under the existing leasing arrangements, whenever welfare services lettings in public housing estates became vacant and available for leasing, the relevant list would be uploaded onto the HA or HD website for open application by eligible non-government organisations (NGOs). HA would also provide the list to the Social Welfare

Department on a regular basis. Upon receipt of an application, HA would consult the relevant Bureaux / Departments according to the nature of services the applicant organisation provided. Having taken into account factors such as estate management, residents' views, engineering feasibility and land lease conditions (if applicable), HA would then lease the premises at a concessionary rent to the NGO recommended by the relevant Bureaux / Departments.

41. The Chairman invited SDC members to raise comments or enquiries.

42. Mr CHAO Howard said that his inspection of Aberdeen Market revealed that three out of the 37 stalls on the ground floor, six out of the 32 stalls on the first floor, and 11 out of the 50 stalls on the second floor (excluding the cooked food centre) were vacant. In other words, 20 out of the 119 stalls in Aberdeen Market were vacant, representing a vacancy rate of 16.81%. He also pointed out that some people occupied vacant stalls for storing goods, and suggested that FEHD strengthen inspection and cordon off vacant stalls to prevent occupation. He recommended that until securing a lease, the Government could consider temporarily letting a vacant stall rent-free to NGOs or non-profit-making organisations (NPOs) to run workshops or to young people to start up businesses.

43. Mr CHEUNG Wai-nam commented that:

- (i) Government Departments could take the opportunity of the redevelopment of Yue Kwong Chuen and Wah Fu Estate to initiate communication with the tenants. Some of the stalls in Tin Wan Market and Wah Fu (II) Estate Market had rather short business hours, which were insufficient to meet residents' needs. It was hoped that the livelihood facilities around the estates could be improved with the redevelopment;
- (ii) He commended HD for organising the WELL•BEING Estate Festival, but expressed disappointment that the event did not cover the housing estates in the Southern District; and
- (iii) In view of the ageing population, HD could consider providing additional leisure facilities or children's playgrounds in the existing vacant public spaces in the estates, such as on the lower floors of the blocks in Wah Fu Estate and Shek Pai Wan Estate.

44. Mr WONG Choi-lap made the following comments:

- (i) Despite acceptable letting rates of stalls and shops under FEHD and HA, their business hours were too short, to which the relevant Government Departments should make some adjustments;
- (ii) According to the figures provided by HA, there were about 80 000 square metres of non-domestic premises in the Southern District, of which 41% were social welfare facilities and only 20% were retail shops and market stalls. He suggested that HA explore for ways to increase the proportion of retail shops and market stalls; and
- (iii) Many shops such as restaurants and pharmacies in Wah Fu (I) Estate had closed down one after another, affecting the daily life of residents. The market stalls there had also been struggling to remain in business. He suggested that HA expedite the tendering process to boost the letting rate.

45. Mr LAU Ngai, Victor raised the following comments and enquiries:

- (i) He concurred with Mr WONG Choi-lap's views and found the vacancy rate acceptable as most of the shops were stably leased;
- (ii) He suggested that relevant Government Departments offer assistance to tenants according to their business situation, such as providing turnover-based rent waiver or reduction to encourage tenants to stay in business;
- (iii) To optimise the use of public resources, vacant shops and stalls at tender stage could be used to house smart parcel lockers and vending machines;
- (iv) It was proposed that HA provide additional temporary community facilities in its shopping centres to bring in more people, so as to benefit the business of tenants as well as to enhance the quality of life of residents;
- (v) HA's parking offers had benefited many residents in Wah Fu (I) Estate and Wah Fu (II) Estate; and
- (vi) Enquiry was made about the details of the Well Being · Start-Up programme, including the list of participating shopping centres in the Southern District. He suggested that the programme provide a longer tenancy to entice tenants to move in before progressively adjusting the rents later.

46. Ms CHAN Wing-yan expressed concern about the leasing of Aberdeen Market and made the following comments:

- (i) FEHD determined the rentals of market stalls by basing on the reference rentals recommended by the Rating and Valuation Department. Aberdeen Market was located in the Southern District town centre area and should appeal to all types of customers. Nevertheless, the shopping pattern of the public had changed. To maintain the competitiveness of market stalls, FEHD should exercise flexibility in determining the rentals according to the target clientele of their tenants with the aim of stabilising prices and boosting visits; and
- (ii) Given that Aberdeen Market was the first project under the Market Modernisation Programme, she suggested that FEHD collect views on the charges for air-conditioning and make some adjustments accordingly.

47. Ms LI Ka-ying said that she had earlier visited a number of cities on the Mainland to learn about their use of public space and the provision of community facilities. While this agenda item was about revitalising the use of public space, she suggested that HA improve the public space in public housing estates by, for example, adding community gardens, fitness facilities or sitting-out areas in line with the Well-being Design Guide announced by HA earlier.

48. Ms LAM Wing-yan commented that:

- (i) There was concern about the operation of market stalls. Taking Tin Wan Market as an example, despite the high letting rate, several stalls on the upper floors were not in business and some of them were even used for storage. For a reduced vacancy rate and a better shopping experience for residents, she suggested that FEHD review the situation and provide incentives as far as possible to encourage tenants to stay in business; and
- (ii) As most tenants were small business operators incapable of market analysis, she suggested that relevant Government Departments provide market data to tenants to facilitate their business transformation and offer them rent concessions during the transition. She added that the locations and ancillary facilities of some markets were inconvenient for residents, especially the elderly. For example, Yue Kwong Road Market had to be accessed by staircases and hence had few visits.

49. The Chairman invited the representatives of Government Departments to respond.

50. Miss LEUNG Wai-kuen gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (i) Any failure of a leased market stall to endeavour to stay in business was a breach of the contract terms and FEHD would tighten regulation in that regard;
- (ii) As the suggestion of letting vacant market stalls rent-free to young people for starting up businesses or to NPOs for organising activities was related to the overall policy, she would convey the proposal to the relevant policy unit;
- (iii) She concurred with the view that existing resources should be put to good use. At the time, FEHD had made vacant market stalls available to NPOs for organising community liaison activities. That was aimed to create highlights for and boost the vibrancy of the markets to draw patronage of residents of all ages; and
- (iv) She would relay the proposal to adjust the rentals and air-conditioning charges to the relevant policy unit.

51. Mr TO Chak-foo gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (i) HD had set up a Redevelopment Sub-section Office in Wah Fu Estate and instructed front-line staff to strengthen communication with market tenants so that they were well informed about the schedule of redevelopment;
- (ii) With cross-generation harmony in mind, when planning the overall layout of public space, HD would co-locate fitness and recreational facilities so that differently-aged family members could share and interact in the same public space, enhancing family ties. Scattered fitness and recreational facilities could hardly bring generations together;
- (iii) Since the provision of additional elderly activity rooms could entail a change of land use, land lease conditions and technical feasibility of the works had first to be considered. If the conversion into welfare services lettings was feasible, eligible NGOs could apply for the vacant welfare services lettings in public housing estates in accordance with the existing leasing arrangements, details of which could be found in the written reply at Annex 3;
- (iv) HA's shopping centres in the Southern District were not covered by the Well Being · Start-Up programme. He would relay SDC members' views to the Headquarters. HD would keep reviewing the results of the programme, and adjust or

refine the arrangements as necessary;

- (v) HD would bolster its efforts in monitoring the operation of market stalls. If their business hours were found inadequate, HD would contact and request the tenants concerned to resume normal business hours as soon as possible;
- (vi) HA's non-domestic premises comprised welfare and community facilities, retail shops, market stalls as well as units for other purposes. Their proportions were generally results of the overall planning with due regard to the community attributes and the residents' different needs for social welfare services and so on. Meanwhile, he would reflect SDC members' suggestions to the Headquarters;
- (vii) He would relay to the Headquarters the suggestion to use vacant shops to house smart parcel lockers; and
- (viii) HA would continue to uphold the balanced ecological planning and design principles for protecting the ecology in the vicinity of its developments. To create a green and healthy living environment, green design guidelines were introduced into the design of public housing estates, requiring at least 20% greenery coverage at new public housing developments. At the same time, apart from landscape improvement in its housing estates, HA had been actively promoting greening and environmental protection in various forms, including through the Community Greening Programme, the Community Garden Programme and the Chinese New Year Citrus Plants Replanting Scheme.

52. The Chairman invited SDC members to raise comments or enquiries.

53. Ms HO Yuen-wei thanked SDC members for their suggestions and the Government Departments for their responses. She hoped that collective wisdom could be tapped and different perspectives be adopted to resolve the issue of vacant shops in the Southern District.

#### **Agenda Item 5: Any Other Business**

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#### **Invitation to SDC to be an Assisting Organisation of “Jockey Club Marine Plastic Challenge Education Programme cum Clean Up Carnival” and Seeking SDC’s Consent for the Use of the SDC logo in the Publicity Activities and Materials**

54. The Secretary asked SDC members whether they needed to declare interests in respect of the event.

55. Mr Jonathan LEUNG Chun, MH declared that he was a member of the Board of the Ocean Park.

56. The Chairman said that this agenda item had no connection with the personal interests of the above SDC member, hence he could still take part in the discussion of this agenda item.

57. The Chairman asked the Secretary to briefly introduce the agenda item.

58. The Secretary briefly introduced the agenda item as follows:

- (i) The Secretariat received an invitation from Ocean Park inviting SDC to be an assisting organisation of “Jockey Club Marine Plastic Challenge Education Programme cum Clean Up Carnival”. SDC’s consent to the use of the SDC logo in the publicity activities and materials by Ocean Park was also sought;
- (ii) On 25 January 2025, Ocean Park would hold activities, including a community carnival, an inter-school competition, an exhibition and social media publicity, to educate the public and students about the sources of marine refuse and how to keep the coastline clean; and
- (iii) SDC should decide whether it would agree to be an assisting organisation of the above event and give consent to Ocean Park to use the SDC logo in the publicity activities and materials.

59. The Chairman invited SDC members to raise comments or enquiries.

60. No SDC members raised any comments or enquiries.

61. The Chairman was pleased that SDC members agreed that SDC would be the assisting organisation of the above event and gave consent to Ocean Park to use the SDC logo in the publicity activities and materials.

**Invitation to SDC to Jointly Launch the LED Replacement Programme with Care Teams in the Southern District and Seeking SDC’s Consent for the Use of the SDC Logo in the Publicity Activities and Materials**

62. The Chairman invited the Secretary to briefly introduce the paper.

63. The Secretary briefly introduced the agenda item as follows:

- (i) The Secretariat received an invitation from the Southern District Care Team Joint Committee (“the Joint Committee”) inviting SDC to join hands with Care Teams in the Southern District to launch the LED Replacement Programme. SDC’s consent to the use of the SDC logo in the publicity activities and materials by the Joint Committee was also sought;
- (ii) The above programme was organised by the Hong Kong Chinese Enterprises Association, sponsored by China Huadian Corporation Limited and undertaken by Long Caring of CR Longdation Company Limited. Volunteers of Hong Kong Unity Construction Workmate Home would replace existing light bulbs with LED light bulbs for 10 000 grass-root families for free. That would help the residents cut their spending on electricity and promote sustainability as well;
- (iii) As was the case with past agenda items involving Care Teams, SDC members who were also members of Care Teams were not required to declare interests because no additional resources or pecuniary interests were involved in this agenda item; and
- (iv) SDC should decide whether it would agree to join hands with Care Teams in the Southern District to launch the above programme, including assisting with the promotion of the programme to residents and helping Care Teams arrange for the replacement of existing light bulbs with LED light bulbs for grass-root families, and whether it would give consent to the Joint Committee to use the SDC logo in the publicity activities and materials.

64. The Chairman invited SDC members to raise comments or enquiries.

65. No SDC members raised any comments or enquiries.

66. The Chairman was pleased that SDC members agreed to join hands with Care Teams in the Southern District to launch the above programme and gave consent to the Joint Committee to use the SDC logo in the publicity activities and materials.

**Invitation to SDC to be a Supporting Organisation of “Winter Care Campaign in the Southern District 2024” and Seeking SDC’s Consent for the Use of the SDC logo in the Publicity Activities and Materials**

67. The Chairman said that a declaration of interests was respectively received from Ms LAM Yuk-chun, BBS, MH, declaring that she was a member of a special committee on elderly services under Aberdeen Kai-fong Welfare Association Limited (AKA), and Mr LAU Ngai, Victor, declaring that he was a director of AKA.

68. The Chairman said that this agenda item had no connection with the personal interests of the above SDC members, hence they could still take part in the discussion of this agenda item.

69. The Secretary briefly introduced the agenda item as follows:

- (i) The Secretariat received an invitation from AKA inviting SDC to be a supporting organisation of “Winter Care Campaign in the Southern District 2024”. SDC’s consent to the use of the SDC logo in the publicity activities and materials by AKA was also sought;
- (ii) AKA had been the organiser of the above campaign for the previous 26 consecutive years. For each of the years, there was an average of over 600 volunteers conducting home visits to over 800 elderly households. The volunteers would extend greetings and gift packs to elders, embodying the caring spirit of the community; and
- (iii) SDC should decide whether it would agree to be a supporting organisation of the above campaign and give consent to AKA to use the SDC logo in the publicity activities and materials.

70. The Chairman invited SDC members to raise comments or enquiries.

71. No SDC members raised any comments or enquiries.

72. The Chairman was pleased that SDC members agreed that SDC would be a supporting organisation of the above campaign and gave consent to AKA to use the SDC logo in the publicity activities and materials.

73. The Chairman asked SDC members whether they had any other items to raise.

74. No other business was raised at the meeting.

**Agenda Item 6: Date of Next Meeting**

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75. The Chairman advised that the sixth SDC meeting would be held at 2:30 p.m. on 7 November 2024 (Thursday).

76. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:55 p.m.

Secretariat, Southern District Council

October 2024