

(Translation)

**Minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Southern District Council (SDC)**  
**(2024-2027)**

Date : 16 March 2026  
Time : 10:00 a.m.  
Venue : SDC Conference Room

**Present:**

Ms CHEUNG Pui-shan, Sandy, JP      Chairman  
District Officer (Southern)

Hon 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

Hon 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

**Secretary:**

Ms CHAN Shuk-man, Agnes

Senior Executive Officer (District Council),  
Southern District Office

**In Attendance:**

Miss CHAN Tsz-lam, Lynn

Assistant District Officer (Southern)

Mr LEUNG Ying-kit

Senior Executive Officer (District Management),  
Southern District Office

Ms CHAN Grace

Senior Liaison Officer (1),  
Southern District Office

Ms CHUNG Chui-yan, Chris

Senior Liaison Officer (2),  
Southern District Office

Miss LAI Wing-sau, Winsy

District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent  
(Southern), Food and Environmental Hygiene  
Department

Ms LEE Suk-han, Yvonne

Chief Leisure Manager (Hong Kong West),  
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mr YU Chi-ying

District Leisure Manager (Southern),  
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mr NG Chi-shing

Chief Manager / Management (HKI),  
Housing Department

Ms CHAN Ho-ye, Christy

Senior Transport Officer / Southern,  
Transport Department

Ms IP Ka-ye

District Commander (Western District),  
Hong Kong Police Force

Mr WAN Fu-kwan, Nelson

Police Community Relations Officer (Western  
District), Hong Kong Police Force

Mr CHAN Hing-yin, Donald

Senior Engineer / 4 (South and Sustainable  
Lantau), Civil Engineering and Development  
Department

Mr PANG Kwok-wai

Chief Engineer / Railway Development 1-1,  
Highways Department

Mr CHEUNG Kwok-ming, Joe

Senior Engineer / Railway Schemes (19),  
Highways Department

} for  
agenda  
item 2

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|-------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------|
| Mr Kevin MAN            | Head of Development – New Railway Projects,<br>MTR Corporation Limited   | } | for<br>agenda<br>item 2         |
| Ms Irene LIU            | Chief Construction Planning Manager,<br>MTR Corporation Limited  |   |                                 |
| Mr Henry MAN            | Senior Corporate Communications Manager –<br>Capital Works, MTR Corporation Limited                                    |   |                                 |
| Dr TSUI Sik-hon         | Deputy Hospital Chief Executive (Hospital<br>Services), Queen Mary Hospital  | } | for<br>agenda<br>item 3         |
| Ms Sharon MO            | Medical Social Worker in-charge,<br>Queen Mary Hospital  |   |                                 |
| Ms TSE Bik-san          | Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Central<br>Western, Southern & Islands) 1,<br>Social Welfare Department     |   |                                 |
| Ms WONG Lai-har, Teresa | Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Central<br>Western, Southern & Islands) 3,<br>Social Welfare Department     |   |                                 |
| Ms YAU Shan             | Social Work Officer 3 (Planning & Coordinating)<br>(Central Western, Southern & Islands),<br>Social Welfare Department | } | for<br>agenda<br>items 3<br>& 4 |
| Ms CHIM Wai-han         | Social Work Officer (Queen Mary Hospital) 1,<br>Social Welfare Department  |   |                                 |
|                         |  | } | for<br>agenda<br>item 3         |

**Agenda Item 1: Confirmation of the Draft Minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> SDC Meeting held on 5 January 2026**

1. The Chairman said that the Secretariat had received an amendment proposal for the draft minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> SDC meeting. The revised minutes had been circulated to members for comments prior to the meeting. The Secretariat had not received any amendment proposals so far.
2. The Chairman asked SDC members whether to confirm the captioned minutes.
3. The Chairman said that SDC confirmed the captioned minutes.

**Agenda Item 2: Introduction of the South Island Line (West)**  
**(Item raised by Highways Department and MTR Corporation Limited)**  
**(SDC Paper No. 16/2026)**

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4. The Chairman welcomed the following representatives of the Highways Department (HyD) and the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) to the meeting:

- (i) Mr PANG Kwok-wai, Chief Engineer / Railway Development 1-1 of HyD;
- (ii) Mr CHEUNG Kwok-ming, Joe, Senior Engineer / Railway Schemes (19) of HyD;
- (iii) Mr Kevin MAN, Head of Development – New Railway Projects of MTRCL;
- (iv) Ms Irene LIU, Chief Construction Planning Manager of MTRCL; and
- (v) Mr Henry MAN, Senior Corporate Communications Manager – Capital Works of MTRCL.

5. The Chairman invited the representatives of HyD and MTRCL to briefly introduce the paper.

6. Mr PANG Kwok-wai briefly introduced the paper, adding that MTRCL had received feedback from various parties regarding the South Island Line (West) (SIL(W)) project (the project), covering aspects such as stations, route alignment, pedestrian links and environmental impact. MTRCL would carefully study these subjects.

7. Mr Kevin MAN, with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, briefly introduced the project, highlighting that SIL(W) could further enhance the railway network connecting the southern and western parts of Hong Kong Island and improve overall transport efficiency. The key features and timeframe of the project were summarised as follows:

- (i) With particular emphasis on planning for the long term, the project aimed to integrate the railway network on Hong Kong Island and provide the public with more direct and convenient travel options by connecting SIL(W) to the South

Island Line (East) (SIL(E)) and the Island Line (with Wong Chuk Hang and HKU Stations serving as interchange stations respectively);

- (ii) The project would serve a number of existing and newly-developed communities in the Southern District, as well as hospitals and innovation and technology facilities, which could help alleviate traffic pressure in the area;
- (iii) The project was a Smart and Green Mass Transit System (SGMTS) with medium carrying capacity, which could enhance operational efficiency and adapt flexibly to the terrain, making it highly suitable for the hilly terrain and the transport needs of the Southern District;
- (iv) Spanning approximately 7.5 km, the project would comprise elevated viaducts and, at some sections, tunnels; and
- (v) Regarding the timeframe, after receiving the Government's invitation, MTRCL had immediately commenced its preparatory work, including preliminary project planning and design, tendering for consultancy contracts as well as district consultation etc. It would also proceed with ground investigations, traffic impact assessments and statutory procedures such as environmental impact assessments and gazettal. Once all preparations were in place, the tender procedure would commence. The target was to commence preliminary works in 2027, with completion expected by 2034.

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

9. Ms CHAN Wing-yan raised the following comments and enquiries:

- (i) She expressed support for the project and said that public enquiries regarding the locations of station exits and elevated viaducts had increased recently. It was hoped that MTRCL would provide relevant information;
- (ii) She enquired about the impact of the SGMTS on the landscape of the Southern District, the protective measures to be implemented during construction, and the findings of the traffic impact assessment. She also hoped that MTRCL would maintain communication with local stakeholders throughout the project; and
- (iii) She would like to learn about the interchange station design for Wong Chuk Hang Station and HKU Station, such as whether the platform area would be expanded, and how the SGMTS would integrate with the existing MTR system.

10. Mr PANG Siu-kei raised the following comments and enquiries:
- (i) Currently, SIL(E) trains consisted of only three carriages, and as the platforms were relatively short, the platforms at Wong Chuk Hang and South Horizons Stations were frequently congested with passengers waiting for trains. Given that the project had a medium carrying capacity, he enquired about the number of carriages, passenger capacity and platform size; and
  - (ii) He would like to know how the station would connect to the major housing estates in Aberdeen, Shek Pai Wan, Tin Wan, Wah Fu, Chi Fu and Residence Bel-Air. He also hoped that MTRCL would consider the design of pedestrian links during the preliminary design stage.
11. The Chairman invited the representatives of HyD or MTRCL to give a response.
12. Mr Kevin MAN gave a consolidated response as follows:
- (i) The project was currently at the preliminary planning stage, and the design of stations and pedestrian links was still in progress. MTRCL would consider the five key factors mentioned in the PowerPoint presentation, namely, current and future population distribution, geology and terrain, construction space, impact on road traffic and community circumstances, with a view to balancing the needs of all stakeholders;
  - (ii) The design of the SGMETS had not yet been finalised, whilst the size of the platforms would depend on the number of carriages; and
  - (iii) MTRCL would commence the traffic impact assessment and preliminary ground investigations as soon as possible.
13. Hon Jonathan LEUNG Chun, MH, raised the following comments and enquiries:
- (i) Ocean Park Station on SIL(E) had been extremely crowded during peak hours. In response, service frequencies had been increased earlier on, and the average waiting times during peak hours had reduced by approximately 45 seconds on average. Following the commissioning of SIL(W), the passenger flow at

Wong Chuk Hang Station, as an interchange station, was bound to surge significantly, and the situation would be really concerning;

- (ii) In designing the platforms of Wong Chuk Hang Station, due consideration should be given to the number of residential units in the above-station properties; and
- (iii) He enquired about the maximum passenger capacity between Wong Chuk Hang and Admiralty Stations.

14. Ms LAM Wing-yan raised the following comments and enquiries:

- (i) She enquired whether the project would be constructed along the Aberdeen promenade, highlighting that residents of Aberdeen Centre (Kwun Hoi Court, Kwun King Court and Kwun Chiu Court) and Abba House were concerned that the route alignment would run too close to the residential estates in the Aberdeen area, which would cause noise and affect the views from their homes;
- (ii) She suggested that MTRCL install noise barriers along certain sections of the elevated viaducts and ensure that their design could blend in with the surrounding environment while securing the privacy of nearby residential properties; and
- (iii) Some residents expressed concerns about noise and air pollution during the construction period. She suggested that MTRCL formulate contingency plans in advance and maintain effective communication, so as to address residents' concerns.

15. Mr Henry MAN responded that the existing SIL(E) would increase its service frequencies during most of the day at weekends and on public holidays starting from 21 March. MTRCL would keep in view of the operations and make flexible adjustments to the frequencies in line with the residents' travel patterns.

16. Mr Kevin MAN gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (i) Given that the project was currently at the preliminary design stage, MTRCL and its consultant team would conduct a comprehensive assessment of the landscape impact, route alignment and noise issues and give due consideration

to these aspects in the planning stage with the aim of striking the best possible balance between the interests of different parties;

- (ii) The railway would not be constructed offshore; and
- (iii) MTRCL would comply with the relevant statutory requirements and install noise barriers as necessary, depending on the distance between the route alignment and residential areas.

17. Mr SIU Wai-chung raised the following comments:

- (i) He expressed support for the project, adding that the public were keen to know how the project would dovetail with the existing transport networks. He suggested MTRCL announce the project details as soon as possible, including the design of station exits and the temporary traffic arrangements during the construction period;
- (ii) As several major infrastructure projects were taking place in the District at the same time, including the Wah Fu Estate Redevelopment project and Global Innovation Centre, he suggested MTRCL make appropriate arrangements for the construction vehicles to access the construction site so as to minimise their impact on local traffic; and
- (iii) It was recommended that the transport links near Chi Fu Fa Yuen be enhanced to facilitate access to SIL(W) for the convenience of some 16 000 residents of the area.

18. Mr WONG Choi-lap raised the following comments and enquiries:

- (i) Besides expressing support for the project, he suggested MTRCL think from the residents' perspective in the planning and design process and address their concerns. As MTRCL had not finalised the project details yet, SDC members were unable to explain the proposals to residents at this stage;
- (ii) He suggested MTRCL establish specific formats of public consultation and set out the timetables so that SDC members and residents could participate;
- (iii) As the public attached great concern about the service frequencies and carrying capacity, he suggested MTRCL announce relevant information in due course; and

- (iv) As the project was an SGMTS, the overall progress of the Wah Fu Estate Redevelopment project could be accelerated. However, considering the overlap between the two projects, it was hoped that MTRCL could consider bringing forward the construction of the SIL(W) project.

19. Mr CHEUNG Wai-nam raised the following comments and enquiries:

- (i) Feedback was gathered from residents of Tin Wan Estate, Shek Pai Wan Estate and Yue Kwong Chuen through residents' meetings, questionnaires and press conferences. Residents had expressed concerns about the impact of elevated viaducts of the SGMTS;
- (ii) A number of redevelopment projects took place in the Southern District, for instance, Yue Kwong Chuen would be redeveloped from its original five residential blocks into two blocks of rental estates and three blocks of subsidised sale flats, whereas Wah Fu Estate would house approximately 12 200 households upon redevelopment, marking an increase from the current 9 200 households. In view of the anticipated surge in population, he suggested that MTRCL allow sufficient space for future expansion when designing the platforms;
- (iii) At present, HKU Station was already very congested during peak hours. As the future interchange stations for SIL(W), Wong Chuk Hang and HKU Stations should provide adequate supporting facilities, such as pedestrian links and lifts etc., so as not to undermine the intended purpose of enhancing convenience and efficiency; and
- (iv) If the route alignment ran close to "Fifteen Houses", Ocean Court, Tin Wan Street and Aberdeen Wholesale Fish Market, he enquired about the arrangements for the storage and logistics of construction materials during the construction period.

20. Mr PANG Kwok-wai responded that the project team had been maintaining communication with relevant Government Departments and institutions (such as the Housing Department and The University of Hong Kong) regarding several major projects in the Southern District, including the Wah Fu Estate Redevelopment project and Global Innovation Centre.

21. Mr Kevin MAN gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (i) He was pleased that SDC members supported the project and MTRCL would focus on accelerating its progress and improving efficiency;
- (ii) Various innovation construction methods would be employed during the project. In particular, the Modular Integrated Construction method would be adopted as far as practicable so as to minimise the impact of on-site works on residents;
- (iii) MTRCL was actively making preparation for the traffic impact assessment, which would be launched in parallel with initial planning and designing work; and
- (iv) When designing platforms, MTRCL would consider various factors such as project planning and design, route alignment, station locations and station facilities etc., with the aim of optimising land use and addressing the needs of various stakeholders.

22. Mr Henry MAN gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (i) He noted SDC members' comments on the design of interchange stations at Wong Chuk Hang and HKU Stations, and MTRCL had also gathered different views and suggestions. It would carefully consider the interchange arrangements for the convenience of passengers and formulate appropriate measures based on the passenger flow; and
- (ii) Community relations played a crucial part in the implementation of the project and public views could contribute to the enhancement of designs and formulation of appropriate measures, thereby reducing the impact on the public during construction. He thanked SDC members for sharing their knowledge of the community and providing valuable insights. MTRCL sought to gain a deeper understanding of the community needs through different ways and would enhance the publicity of the project. MTRCL would collaborate with SDC members on publicity efforts.

23. Professor CHAN Yuk-kit, MH, JP, raised the following comments and enquiries:

- (i) Existing maintenance depots might not be compatible with the SGMTS of the project as it was a different signal system from the traditional one. He enquired whether it was necessary to construct new depots and enquired about the locations, stressing that it was important to choose a suitable site for the depots, with priority given to minimising disruption to residents' daily lives; and
- (ii) He suggested that the maintenance depots should adopt an enclosed design.

24. Hon CHU Lap-wai, MH, raised the following comments:

- (i) He was pleased to learn that the project was set to proceed, as it represented the final piece of the puzzle in resolving traffic issues in the Southern District. He hoped that the construction works would commence as soon as possible;
- (ii) He believed that the SGMTS could effectively minimise the impact on residents and suggested that the public consultation process be expedited;
- (iii) He was aware that the SGMTS project in East Kowloon (the East Kowloon project) was about to enter the tendering process. He opined that the public views and suggestions gathered during the consultation period for the East Kowloon project could serve as a reference for the construction of SIL(W). MTRCL could formulate solutions in advance to facilitate SDC members' explanations to the public; and
- (iv) He expressed concern about how the stations connected to Aberdeen, Shek Pai Wan and Tin Wan, as well as major housing estates such as Wah Fu Estate, Chi Fu Fa Yuen and Residence Bel-Air.

25. Ms LI Ka-ying raised the following comments:

- (i) With 2026 being the conceptual planning stage of the project, a substantial amount of preparatory work had to be carried out prior to the gazettal in 2027, including environmental assessments, public consultation and site investigations etc. It was hoped that MTRCL would maintain communication with SDC members at every stage;
- (ii) She expressed concern about the public consultation methods and the traffic arrangements during the construction period; and

(iii) She suggested MTRCL make available the data on the noise levels emitted by the SGMTS in Chinese Mainland and foreign countries to the public, so as to address the residents' concerns.

26. Mr PANG Kwok-wai responded that he understood that SDC members and the public were looking forward to the commissioning of SIL(W), adding that HyD would work closely with MTRCL so as to commence the construction at an earlier time. The experience from relevant projects such as the East Kowloon project would be drawn on during the design process.

27. Mr Henry MAN responded that MTRCL valued residents' comments and suggestions, alongside its efforts to explain the latest progress and the advantages of the SGMTS to the residents.

28. Mr Kevin MAN responded that the project had a medium carrying capacity, with a passenger capacity intermediate between heavy rail and light rail. The number of carriages and the train speeds would depend on the five factors mentioned earlier. The maintenance depots would be located near Cyberport Station.

29. Ms LAM Yuk-chun, BBS, MH, raised the following comments and enquiries:

(i) The construction of SIL(E) was rather complicated as it involved private land of South Horizons. She enquired about the area of private land to be involved in the SIL(W) project;

(ii) For the residents' convenience, she suggested that MTRCL explore the possibility of constructing underground walkways to connect the stations to major residential areas such as Aberdeen, Tin Wan and Wah Fu Estate. This would also boost their incentive to use the rail;

(iii) Currently SIL(E) had been running at maximum capacity and the three carriages were unable to meet the high demand. Given that it was impossible to increase the number of carriages, it was recommended that MTRCL explore ways to increase the passenger capacity of each carriage to cope with the high passenger flow during peak hours; and

- (iv) The programme “Southern District Elderly-Friendly Safe Community Programme 2025-2026 – Exploring the South Island Coastal Line”, funded under the Community Involvement Programme of the Home Affairs Department, had conducted a consultation on the SIL(W) project, and a summary of the views expressed by elderly residents regarding the elderly-friendly facilities on SIL(W) was presented during a sharing session of the programme. She suggested that the Secretariat of SDC (the Secretariat) share the relevant information with SDC members for their reference.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat shared the relevant information with SDC members on 21 April 2026.)

30. Mr CHEUNG Chin-chung raised the following comments and enquiries:
- (i) In view of the significant population of elderly people and wheelchair users in the Southern District, he enquired whether the station designs were readily accessible for wheelchair users and well-equipped with assistive facilities; and
  - (ii) As there was a considerable distance between Queen Mary Hospital Station and Queen Mary Hospital, he suggested MTRCL study the feasibility of constructing a pedestrian link connecting the station exits to Queen Mary Hospital.
31. Mr LAI Ka-chi expressed concern about the adequacy of station facilities and whether they could cater for the needs of different parties such as the elderly as well as persons with disabilities and health conditions.
32. Mr Kevin MAN responded that he had noted SDC members’ concerns about the project planning and station designs and he was aware of the need to provide pedestrian links for the community. MTRCL would consider a range of factors such as the needs of the elderly, the barrier-free access and private land etc. at the planning and design stage.
33. Ms CHAN Wing-yan raised the following comments:

- (i) It was hoped that the SIL(W) project could draw on the experience from the construction of SIL(E);
- (ii) There was a considerable distance between Wong Chuk Hang Station and housing estates such as Broadview Court and no covered walkway was provided. It was hoped that the ancillary facilities of the station could be improved under the SIL(W) project; and
- (iii) It was hoped that the service frequencies on SIL(E) could be increased before the commencement of the SIL(W) project.

34. Mr PANG Kwok-wai thanked SDC members for their support and valuable comments. HyD and MTRCL would work in collaboration to commence the construction at the earliest opportunity and maintain communication with SDC members during the course.

35. The Chairman thanked the HyD and MTRCL representatives for attending the meeting and briefing SDC members on the project. SIL(W) development was significant to the residents of the Southern District. Given that details such as pedestrian links and interchange arrangements were subject to further discussion, and that public comments and suggestions also played a central part of the project, it was recommended that a select committee or working group be set up at a suitable stage to follow up on the progress, so that SDC members could gain access to more information and explain it to the public, thereby enabling the smooth implementation of the project.

**Agenda Item 3:    **Concern about the Impact of Public Healthcare Fees and Charges Reform on Southern District Residents and Ways to Enhance Publicity on Medical Fee Waivers****  
**(Item raised by Ms CHAN Wing-yan and Ms LAM Wing-yan)**  
**(SDC Paper No. 17/2026)**

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36. The Chairman welcomed the following representatives of the Queen Mary Hospital (QMH) and the Social Welfare Department (SWD) to the meeting:

- (i) Dr TSUI Sik-hon, Deputy Hospital Chief Executive (Hospital Services) of QMH;
- (ii) Ms Sharon MO, Medical Social Worker in-charge of QMH;
- (iii) Ms TSE Bik-san, Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Central Western, Southern & Islands) 1 of SWD;
- (iv) Ms WONG Lai-har, Teresa, Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Central Western, Southern & Islands) 3 of SWD;
- (v) Ms YAU Shan, Social Work Officer 3 (Planning & Coordinating) (Central Western, Southern & Islands) of SWD; and
- (vi) Ms CHIM Wai-han, Social Work Officer (Queen Mary Hospital) 1 of SWD.

37. The Chairman said that prior to the meeting, Ms CHAN Wing-yan and Ms LAM Wing-yan had made a request to discuss the captioned matter at the meeting. The details were given in Annex 1 and the written replies from the Government Departments and organisations were given in Annex 2.

38. The Chairman invited Ms CHAN Wing-yan to briefly introduce the agenda item.

39. Ms CHAN Wing-yan briefly introduced the agenda item and added the following:

- (i) It was learnt that since the implementation of the public healthcare fees and charges reform (the fee reform), the utilisation rate of Accident and Emergency (A&E) Departments in public hospitals in Hong Kong had fallen by approximately 10%. She would like to know the current number of residents in the Southern District applying for medical fee waivers (fee waivers), as well as the number of cases processed to date;
- (ii) QMH had already established a designated team of ten staff members to handle fee waiver applications. Nevertheless, residents reported that the application process was cumbersome and the procedure took a whole day, requiring them to visit the hospital in person. It was recommended that QMH streamline the application process; and

(iii) The Hospital Authority (HA) and QMH had previously sent staff to the Southern District to publicise the fee reform and the fee waiver mechanism. It was hoped that HA and QMH would strengthen their cooperation with SDC members in the future.

40. The Chairman asked whether the representatives of QMH and the Government Departments had anything to add apart from the written replies in Annex 2.

41. Ms Sharon MO added the following:

(i) As at mid-March 2026, there were approximately 10 000 applications for fee waivers in the Central, Western and Southern Districts. The number of applications in the Southern District had not yet been collated;

(ii) The number of applications received by QMH had fallen from nearly 300 per day at the outset of the fee reform to just over 100 per day at present, and the processing time had consequently been reduced;

(iii) QMH had previously collaborated with various local organisations and SDC members to organise regular talks / seminars and other activities to promote the fee reform, and the outcomes were very effective. It would continue to work with various stakeholders to promote the fee reform in the future; and

(iv) QMH expressed its gratitude to SDC members for their assistance in referring cases. The majority of these cases were accompanied by complete documentation, which had substantially reduced QMH's administrative work and expedited the processing.

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

43. Mr LAU Ngai, Victor, said that residents reported that they were required to provide various information at the time of application, such as details of their e-wallet accounts, savings accounts and insurance accounts etc. Furthermore, the terms and conditions were considerably lengthy. He suggested that HQ provide samples for residents' and SDC members' reference so that they could understand how to complete the forms and declare their assets, and what supporting documents were required.

44. Ms Sharon MO responded as follows:

- (i) QMH noted SDC members' comments and was exploring ways to optimise the procedures and guidelines. It would also explain to patients the definitions of assets, for instance, under what circumstances insurance accounts were regarded as an asset of the patient; and
- (ii) Given the complexity of insurance policies and the variety of e-wallets, it was understandable that residents would have difficulty completing the forms. As such, QMH would provide samples to help patients understand the relevant requirements, and would relay to HA the difficulties faced by the public.

45. Ms LAM Wing-yan raised the following comments and enquiries:

- (i) She would like to learn about the overall patient attendance of the Hong Kong West Cluster, wondering if the decline in patient numbers of QMH corresponded to that of TWGHs Fung Yiu King Hospital. If not, this might imply that some patients had shifted to other hospitals within the cluster, which would place additional pressure on those hospitals;
- (ii) Noting that a small number of emergency patients were not attended to within 15 minutes, she enquired how the situation could be improved;
- (iii) The special transitional arrangements for "conditional waivers" were due to end by the end of March. Regarding special cases which were still being processed at that time, she enquired how QMH would handle these cases;
- (iv) She asked whether the decline in the number of applications indicated that QMH had already processed the previously-submitted applications. She also enquired about the current processing time for fee waiver and "conditional waiver" applications; and
- (v) She suggested QMH encourage its doctors to consider patients' financial situation when issuing prescription and choose medicine that suited the patients' case.

46. Dr TSUI Sik-hon responded as follows:

- (i) As the only hospital providing A&E services in the Central, Western and Southern Districts on Hong Kong Island, QMH's data could represent the urgent medical needs of most patients in the Southern District; and

- (ii) Since the introduction of the fee reform, there had been no significant reduction in the number of patients in critical, emergency and urgent medical conditions. Meanwhile, the number of semi-urgent and non-urgent patients had declined, which enabled the A&E Department to concentrate its resources on serving patients in critical, emergency and urgent medical conditions, thereby improving the rate of meeting service targets. However, as A&E services were not provided on an appointment basis, there might be several critical or emergency patients at the same time. As such, the rate of meeting service targets might not reach 100%. QMH would continue to improve its service performance.

47. Ms Sharon MO added the following:

- (i) QMH currently provided assistance to patients with financial difficulties through a number of channels. Regarding the transitional arrangements for “conditional waivers”, the Government and HA were currently discussing relevant measures and would announce the latest arrangements in due course;
- (ii) At this stage, QMH could instantly approve applications for fee waivers, provided that patients had submitted all the necessary supporting documents. Patients did not have to submit a separate application for “conditional waiver”;
- (iii) Through enhanced publicity, QMH hoped to encourage patients to prepare all the required documents and duly complete the forms before submitting their applications, so as to speed up the approval process. If a patient was unable to submit all the required application documents prior to receiving medical services, he / she might apply for a refund at the shroff after submitting the supplementary documents and having their eligibility verified; and
- (iv) The processing time depended on the complexity of the case. Generally speaking, if only basic documents were missing, the application could be processed within a few minutes at the earliest. To facilitate applications and reduce waiting times, patients were encouraged to make use of the relevant drop box to submit supplementary information. Subject to verification of the patient’s identity and details, the application would be processed within a few days, and patients might check the result via the “HA Go” mobile app. As for complex cases, applications would be handled on a case-by-case basis.

48. The Chairman invited SDC members to raise comments or enquiries.
49. No SDC members raised any comments or enquiries.
50. The Chairman asked whether the SWD representatives had anything to add.
51. The SWD representatives had nothing to add.
52. The Chairman thanked the QMH and SWD representatives for attending the meeting.

**Agenda Item 4: Cyberbullying, Online Scams and Dishonest Use of Artificial Intelligence**  
**(Item raised by Mr CHAO Howard)**  
**(SDC Paper No. 18/2026)**

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53. The Chairman said that the Secretariat had invited the Education Bureau (EDB) to send a representative to attend this meeting for discussion of this agenda item, but EDB was unable to attend the meeting as invited.
54. The Chairman welcomed the following SWD representatives to the meeting:
- (i) Ms WONG Lai-har, Teresa, Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Central Western, Southern & Islands) 3; and
  - (ii) Ms YAU Shan, Social Work Officer (Planning & Coordinating) (Central Western, Southern and Islands) 3.
55. The Chairman said that prior to the meeting, Mr CHAO Howard had made a request to discuss the captioned matter at the meeting. The details were given in Annex 1 and the written replies from the Government Departments were given in Annex 2.
56. The Chairman invited Mr CHAO Howard to briefly introduce the agenda item.

57. Mr CHAO Howard briefly introduced the agenda item and added the following:

- (i) While the international community was proactively addressing the risks posed by new technologies through legislation and regulation, the information and support available in Hong Kong for countering such risks remained relatively fragmented; and
- (ii) Prevalent cyberbullying and scams were becoming a significant threat to the foundations of social trust, public mental health and the security of personal property. While actively promoting innovation, technology and artificial intelligence (AI), the Government should put in place an effective regulatory mechanism, a sound legal framework and strengthened precautionary measures to protect the public from the risks of new technologies and, above all, from falling victim to them.

58. The Chairman asked whether the representatives of the Government Departments had anything to add apart from the written replies in Annex 2.

59. Ms IP Ka-yee added the following:

- (i) The Government always took the issue of bullying seriously, with particular concern about bullying among minors. The Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) had adopted a multi-pronged approach to the issue, including enhanced law enforcement, support for victims, publicity and education. Existing laws were equally applicable to the online world. Offences that bullies could commit included criminal intimidation, blackmail, sending harassing messages via telephone, disclosure of personal data without consent, and related sexual offences such as disseminating obscene materials or possessing child pornography; and
- (ii) The fact that scammers or offenders were mostly based overseas and out of Hong Kong had significantly elevated the difficulty in solving cases, making investigations challenging and resulting in a low detection rate. HKPF primarily adopted such measures as prevention, education and publicity in order to help people from all strata of society guard against scams. HKPF had distributed the newly published “Your Scam Prevention Manual” to all SDC

members. Pages 13 and 14 of the manual contained information on scam cases involving AI and face-swapping technology. As scammers' tactics were constantly evolving, the public were advised to download the "Scameter App" for receiving the latest scam alerts from HKPF.

60. The Chairman invited SDC members to raise comments or enquiries.
61. Mr CHAO Howard raised the following comments:
  - (i) HKPF stated in its written reply that traditional crimes were effectively curbed and brought down to an extremely low level. However, the number of scam cases had only been on the rise in recent years. Faced with ever-evolving scamming tactics as well as rapid technological advancements and information overload, members of the public often found it difficult to distinguish between the real and the fake and thus felt vulnerable. Furthermore, HKPF vowed to take stern actions and enforce the law decisively against any bullying cases of criminal nature. However, in this era of ever-changing technology, the efficacy of existing legislation in protecting public safety was questionable. Even with heightened vigilance, people might still be unable to distinguish between real and fake information. Therefore, the Government must put in place a more comprehensive and systematic protection mechanism to prevent risks at source;
  - (ii) Regarding the media's mixing up of the captioned matter with a news report around the Lunar New Year, he was of the opinion that if the victim's experience could alert the public to the issue of cyberbullying and scams arising from the dishonest use of new technologies, thereby raising public vigilance, curbing AI abuse and protecting minors, the whole incident had served a purpose at least; and
  - (iii) The harms of online scams and bullying could be far-reaching. He suggested that SDC members utilised their expertise and specialities to help protect the public, and that the Government draw on foreign countries' relevant legislation in formulating a more comprehensive regulatory mechanism and legal framework as soon as possible to safeguard public safety all round.

62. Ms Ho Yuen-wei said that, according to the Recommendations for Formulating the 15<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan, the Country would vigorously develop new-quality productive forces, including AI. In addition to preventing cyberbullying, she hoped that the Government would fully support AI development and comprehensively refine relevant policies and regulatory systems to align with national development.

63. Ms Chan Wing-yan said that a resident once reported to her about someone impersonating her ward office staff member in order to solicit loans. There was also a case involving someone impersonating a police officer to scam in the District. In the latter case, the victim reported receiving a call from a telephone number matching that of the Aberdeen Police Station, instructing the victim to go out on a decoy operation. However, the victim was unable to get back into contact with the caller upon return. Suspecting being deceived, the victim reported the incident to HKPF subsequently. She urged HKPF to take note of and investigate those cases.

(Post-meeting note: HKPF replied that, regarding the case of someone impersonating a ward office staff member to solicit loans, the Western Police District had reached out to the resident concerned via the ward office. However, the resident neither wished to file a report at the time nor required any police assistance. As for the case of someone impersonating a police officer to scam in the District, records showed that the Western Police District had received related reports and was actively investigating and following up on the case. Meanwhile, the Western Police District would continue to promote “ACTS”, the four key anti-scam strategies, and would step up anti-scam education and publicity in the District to raise public awareness towards scams.)

64. The Chairman asked whether the Government Department representatives had anything to add.

65. The Government Department representatives had nothing to add.

66. The Chairman invited SDC members to raise comments or enquiries.
67. No SDC members raised any comments or enquiries.
68. The Chairman said that both SDC members and Care Teams were more than willing to assist the relevant Departments in stepping up publicity for raising public watchfulness.

**Agenda Item 5: Study on Issues of Concern in the District and Collection of Public Views**  
**(SDC Paper No. 19/2026)**

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69. The Chairman invited Miss CHAN Tsz-lam, Lynn, Assistant District Officer (Southern), to briefly introduce the paper.
70. Miss CHAN Tsz-lam, Lynn briefly introduced the paper as follows:
- (i) According to Section 4A of the District Councils Ordinance, the functions of a District Council included collecting the views of the people in the District in respect of an issue specified by the Chairman of the District Council, and submitting to the Government a summary of the views collected and the suggested corresponding measures;
  - (ii) All SDC members were required to participate in the collection of views and make good use of their own background, field of expertise and social network to propose practical suggestions to the Government;
  - (iii) SDC members were required to submit to the SDC Chairman the proposals in advance, enumerating the background of the issue, the methodology for the collection of views and the relevant details such as the times and locations of the proposed collection, the target respondents and the target number of respondents. Once the Chairman had given her approval to the proposal, SDC members could commence the collection of views accordingly;

- (iv) SDC members might collect views via residents' meetings, community groups or by collaboration with other fellow SDC members. Each SDC member was required to collect the views of 50 to 100 residents;
- (v) In view of Hong Kong's ageing population and its potential pressure on the community, the proposed issue topic for the third round of collection of views was "Collection of Views on Building an Elderly-Friendly Community and Suggestions for Improvement". The study sought to understand the specific daily needs of the elderly, and propose feasible suggestions on how to improve the local barrier-free facilities and enhance support for the elderly, with a view to building an elderly-friendly community in the Southern District; and
- (vi) SDC members were requested to submit to the Chairman via the Secretariat the proposals on collection of views by 23 March 2026 and then the reports by 30 April 2026.

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

72. No SDC members raised any comments or enquiries.

73. In closing, the Chairman said that SDC members' efforts on collection of views in the previous two years should be recognised. She also looked forward to SDC members' feasible suggestions on how to improve the local elderly-friendly facilities including barrier-free access. Such suggestions would be relayed to relevant Government Departments for their consideration.

#### **Agenda Item 6: Any Other Business**

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#### **Invitation to SDC to be a Supporting Organisation of "Southern District Youth Talent Show cum Prize Presentation Ceremony for the National Security Education Day" and Seeking SDC's Consent for the Use of the SDC logo in the Publicity Activities and Materials**

74. The Secretary said that declarations of interests had been respectively received from multiple SDC members before the meeting. They declared to be members of the

Board of the Hong Kong Southern District Community Association Limited (the organiser) as follows: Hon CHU Lap-wai, MH, Ms LAM Yuk-chun, BBS, MH and Mr WONG Choi-lap as Standing Deputy Executive Directors General; Ms LI Ka-ying as Standing Deputy Executive Director General and Treasurer; Mr PANG Siu-kei as Standing Deputy Executive Director General and Secretary General; Mr CHAN Man-chun, JP and Professor CHAN Yuk-kit, MH, JP as Honourary Advisers; Mr CHEUNG Chin-chung, Mr CHEUNG Wai-nam, Mr YEUNG Sheung-chun, Mr SIU Wai-chung, Ms CHAN Wing-yan and Mr Lau Ngai, Victor as Deputy Secretaries General; and Ms LAM Wing-yea as Executive Director. As this agenda item had no connection with the personal interests of the above SDC members, the Chairman decided that the above SDC members could continue to take part in the discussion and decision-making of this agenda item.

75. The Secretary asked SDC members if they had any declarations of interests to make.

76. No SDC members had other declarations of interest to make.

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

- (i) The Secretariat received an invitation from the organiser inviting SDC to be a supporting organisation of the “Southern District Youth Talent Show cum Prize Presentation Ceremony for the National Security Education Day” (the Prize Presentation Ceremony). SDC’s consent to the use of the SDC logo in the publicity activities and materials by the organiser was also sought;
- (ii) The organiser would hold the event on 12 April 2026. The event included talent shows, booth games as well as a prize presentation ceremony for giving recognition to young people with outstanding performance in “The ‘Live in Harmony and Joy’ Smartphone Photo Contest for the Youth in the Southern District”. The event aimed to promote patriotism with affection for both the Country and Hong Kong, and to enhance young people’s understanding of the National Security Law and the importance of national security, thereby raising their law-abiding awareness and strengthening their sense of belonging to the Country; and

(iii) SDC should decide whether it would agree to be a supporting organisation of the event and give consent to the organiser to use the SDC logo in the publicity activities and materials.

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

79. No SDC members raised any comments or enquiries.

80. The Chairman was pleased that SDC members agreed that SDC would be the supporting organisation of the Prize Presentation Ceremony and give consent to the organiser to use the SDC logo in the publicity activities and materials.

**Invitation to SDC to be a Supporting Organisation of “Happy Hearts and Healthy Lives” and Seeking SDC’s Consent for the Use of the SDC Logo in the Publicity Activities and Materials**

81. The Secretary said that declarations of interests had been respectively received from multiple SDC members before the meeting. They declared to be members of the Southern Care Association Limited (the Southern Care Association) as follows: Mr CHEUNG Wai-nam and Ms LAM Wing-yee as founders and directors; and Mr CHEUNG Chin-chung and Mr SIU Wai-chung as vice-chairmen. As this agenda item had no connection with the personal interests of the above SDC members, the Chairman decided that the above SDC members could continue to take part in the discussion and decision-making of this agenda item.

82. The Secretary asked SDC members whether they had any declarations of interests to make.

83. No SDC members had other declarations of interests to make.

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

(i) The Secretariat received an invitation from the Southern Care Association inviting SDC to be a supporting organisation of a series of activities under

“Happy Hearts and Healthy Lives” (the event). SDC’s consent to the use of the SDC logo in the publicity activities and materials was also sought;

- (ii) The Southern Care Association would hold a series of health promotion activities between April and November 2026 with a view to raising local residents’ consciousness of their physical and mental health. The activities included mental health assessments, diverse health check-ups, a digital art competition for children and youngsters, seasonal influenza vaccination services, thematic exhibitions and talks. It was anticipated that about 6 000 residents in the Southern District could benefit from the activities. Furthermore, the launch ceremony of the event would be held on 25 April 2026; and
- (iii) SDC should decide whether it would agree to be a supporting organisation of the event and give consent to the Southern Care Association to use the SDC logo in the publicity activities and materials.

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

86. No SDC members raised any comments or enquiries.

87. The Chairman was pleased that SDC members agreed that SDC would be the supporting organisation of the event and give consent to the Southern Care Association to use the SDC logo in the publicity activities and materials.

**Invitation to SDC to be an Assisting Organiser of “Aberdeen Dragon Boat Race 2026 in Celebration of the 29<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR” and Seeking SDC’s Consent for the Use of the SDC logo in the Publicity Activities and Materials**

88. The Secretary said that declarations of interests had been received from multiple SDC members before the meeting. They declared to be members of the Aberdeen Dragon Boat Race Committee (the Race Committee) as follows: Ms LI Ka-ying and Mr LAI Ka-chi as General Secretaries; and Mr CHEUNG Wai-nam as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Publicity and Ceremonial Affairs. As this agenda item had no connection with the personal interests of the above SDC members, the Chairman

decided that the above SDC members could continue to take part in the discussion and decision-making of this agenda item.

89. The Secretary asked SDC members if they had any declarations of interests to make.

90. No SDC members had other declarations of interests to make.

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

- (i) The Secretariat received an invitation from the Race Committee inviting SDC to be an assisting organiser of the “Aberdeen Dragon Boat Race 2026 in Celebration of the 29<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR” (the Dragon Boat Race). SDC’s consent to the use of the SDC logo in the publicity activities and materials was also sought;
- (ii) The Race Committee would hold the Dragon Boat Race at Aberdeen Promenade on 19 June 2026 for promoting traditional dragon boat culture and related cultural and sports activities, which could in turn boost the economic development in the Southern District;
- (iii) SDC should decide whether it would agree to be an assisting organiser of the Dragon Boat Race and give consent to the Race Committee to use the SDC logo in the publicity activities and materials.

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

93. No SDC members raised any comments or enquiries.

94. The Chairman was pleased that SDC members agreed that SDC would be the assisting organiser of the Dragon Boat Race and give consent to the Race Committee to use the SDC logo in the publicity activities and materials.

**Agenda Item 7: Date of Next Meeting**

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95. The Chairman advised that the fifteenth SDC meeting would be held at 10:00 a.m. on 11 May 2026 (Monday).

96. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 11:39 a.m.

Secretariat, Southern District Council

April 2026