

**Summary of Minutes of the 9th Meeting of
the Finance, Administration and Publicity Committee (2014-2015)**

Meeting

The Finance, Administration and Publicity Committee (“FAPC”) held its ninth meeting on 17 April 2015.

Position of TMDC Funds up to 31 March 2015

2. The FAPC noted that as at the end of financial year (“FY”) 2014-2015, the Tuen Mun District Council (“TMDC”) had allocated a total provision of \$28,023,701 for organising 1 266 community involvement projects. To meet the overspending and in view of the use of funding, the Home Affairs Department (“HAD”) had, by the end of the FY, allocated a total additional provision of \$545,000 to Tuen Mun District. As at 31 March this year, the actual expenditure of the TMDC for FY 2014-2015 had amounted to \$23,544,979, representing 100% of the allocated funding. As in the past few FYs, the amount of outstanding payments of each FY which had to be carried forward to the next FY for settlement was extremely high, the outstanding payments of FY 2014-2015 to be carried forward to FY 2015-2016 had amounted to \$3-odd million.

Cross-year Projects Approved by TMDC

3. The FAPC noted the cross-year projects held or commenced between April and September 2015. The projects had been endorsed at the meetings of the FAPC and TMDC held last year and the allocation had been included in the estimated expenditure of FY 2015-2016.

Outstanding Payments for Projects Approved in FY 2014-2015

4. The FAPC endorsed the adoption of the previous practice to carry forward the outstanding payments of the 213 approved projects to the new FY (i.e. FY 2015-2016) for settlement. The total amount involved was \$3,199,315.9. At the meeting, a number of Members put forward their views on the arrangement for the examination of receipts. The Chairman remarked that the issue could be discussed in details at the future meetings if necessary.

Draft Budget of TMDC Funds (FY 2015-2016)

5. The HAD had announced that the approved provision for the TMDC for FY 2015-2016 was \$24,400,000. Due to funding constraints, the provision for most of the Committees or organisations had to be reduced. The FAPC deliberated on the draft budget and agreed to the main content of the draft budget. Since the funding available for the study on the old area of Tuen Mun was less than expected, the FAPC resolved that provision for the study would not be earmarked at present and the issue would be followed up in the new-term DC.

DC Funds Applications (Projects to be Held or Commenced between April and December 2015)

6. Due to funding constraints, the allocation to some of the applications submitted to the FAPC for approval at this meeting had to be reduced according to the funding ceiling. The FAPC agreed to the arrangement and endorsed the allocation of \$882,250 to a total of 21 funding applications.

DC Funds Applications (Projects to be Held or Commenced between January and March 2016)

7. According to the requirements of the HAD, the DCs should not commit items of expenditure extending beyond their existing term. The FAPC gave in-principle support to the allocation of \$160,000 to a funding application. As the application involved funding more than \$100,000, it would be submitted to the TMDC for deliberation at its next meeting and would be subject to confirmation at the first meeting of the new-term TMDC.

8. The Chairman reminded Members that the first meeting of the new-term TMDC would be held in early January 2016 which would be followed by the formation of the Committees and the respective Working Groups and Steering Groups. Under the circumstances, the publicity of activities to be held by the current-term Working Groups during the first three months of the new-term TMDC should be carried out by the Committees concerned and the names of the Committees instead of those of the Working Groups should be shown on the publicity materials as the joint-organisers if the Working Groups of the new-term TMDC had not been formed. The actual arrangement for the implementation of individual activities in the new-term of the TMDC would be deliberated at its meeting in January 2016.

Funds Applications for Community Participation Initiative on Environmental Protection

9. The TMDC had obtained a funding of \$200,000 from the Environmental Protection Department through the HAD for organising community participation initiatives. The FAPC endorsed the allocation of \$152,580 to a total of four funding applications.

Handling of Dissolution of Working Groups or Removal of Convenors of Working Groups

10. The FAPC followed up on the handling of dissolution of Working Groups or removal of Convenors of Working Groups. After discussion, the FAPC endorsed the proposal of the paper under which the dissolution of Working Groups or removal of Convenors of Working Groups would be considered by the TMDC or the Committees concerned if the normal operation of the Working Groups could not be maintained. It was also proposed in the paper that the motion concerned should be put forth jointly by not less than half of the total number of members of the Committees and endorsed by voting.

Review on the Issue of Conduct of Tuen Mun District Councillors Attending the Meetings

11. The FAPC discussed the issue of conduct of Tuen Mun District Councillors attending the meetings and agreed to the spirit and direction proposed in the paper.

Tuen Mun District Council Secretariat,

Date: 20 April 2015

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