

Minutes of the 1st Meeting of Tai Po District Council in 2016

Date: 4 January 2016 (Monday)
Time: 9:31a.m. to 11:15 a.m.
Venue: Conference Room, Tai Po District Council

Present:

		<u>Time of Arrival</u>	<u>Time of Withdrawal</u>
Mr. SO Chek-leung, Bassanio, JP	Person presiding at the meeting (Part I of the meeting)	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
The Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, GBS, JP	Chairman	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Ms. WONG Pik-kiu, MH, JP	Vice-chairman	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. AU Chun-wah	Member	Beginning of the meeting	11:14 a.m.
Mr. CHAN Cho-leung	Member	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. CHAN Siu-kuen, MH	Member	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. CHENG Chun-ping, JP	Member	9:34 a.m.	End of the meeting
Mr. CHENG Chun-wo	Member	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. CHOW Yuen-wai	Member	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. KWAN Wing-yip	Member	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Dr. LAU Chee-sing	Member	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. LAU Yung-wai	Member	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. LI Kwok-ying, BBS, MH, JP	Member	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. LI Wah-kwong, Rex	Member	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. LI Yiu-ban, BBS, MH, JP	Member	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting

Mr. LO Hiu-fung	Member	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. TAM Wing-fun, Eric	Member	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. TANG Ming-tai, Patrick	Member	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. WOO Kin-man, Clement	Member	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. YAM Kai-bong, Francis	Member	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. YAM Man-chuen	Member	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. YU Chi-wing, Ken	Member	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. LEUNG Siu-keung	Secretary	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting

In Attendance:

Miss YAU Sze-wing, Swing	Assistant District Officer (Tai Po), Home Affairs Department
Mr. Patrick LAIDLER	District Commander (Tai Po), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr. SOH Chun-kwok	District Planning Officer (Sha Tin, Tai Po and North), Planning Department
Mr. LUK Hing-chuen, Steve	Chief Manager/Management (Tai Po, North, Shatin & Sai Kung), Housing Department
Mr. YAM Mun-ho	District Social Welfare Officer (Tai Po & North District), Social Welfare Department
Mr. CHOY Ming-fai, Ryan	District Lands Officer/Tai Po, Lands Department
Ms. YUEN Kit-ching, Jessica	Administrative Assistant (Lands)/(Tai Po District Lands Office), Lands Department
Mr. LO Ka-kan, Gregory	Chief Transport Officer (Acting)/NT East, Transport Department
Mr. HO Fuk-on, Arthur	Senior Engineer/42 (New Territories East), Civil Engineering and Development Department
Mr. TAM Hung-kong	District Leisure Manager (Tai Po), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms. KWAN Ngok-ying	Chief School Development Officer (Tai Po), Education Bureau
Mr. MA Chi-yin	Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Acting)/Tai Po, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Mr. CHAN Hoi-ming, Peter	Senior Liaison Officer (1), Tai Po District Office, Home Affairs Department
Mr. CHAN Hon-kwan, Harris	Senior Liaison Officer (2), Tai Po District Office, Home Affairs Department
Miss LEE Ho-yee, Trazy	Executive Officer I (District Council), Tai Po District Office, Home Affairs Department

Part

I. Opening Remarks by the District Officer (Tai Po)

Mr. Bassanio SO, District Officer (Tai Po) welcomed Members to the first meeting of the fifth-term Tai Po District Council (“TPDC”). He said that in accordance with Section 62(4) of the District Councils Ordinance (Cap. 547), he would preside over Part I of the meeting for the election of the Chairman and Vice-chairman of the TPDC. He added that once the Chairman and Vice-chairman were elected, the newly elected Chairman would take over the meeting to discuss the remaining items on the agenda.

II. Election of the Chairman and Vice-chairman of the TPDC

2. Mr. SO said that the election of the Chairman and Vice-chairman of the TPDC would be conducted by ballot according to the “Procedures for Electing the Chairman and Vice-chairman of the Tai Po District Council” issued earlier by the Secretariat and the voting procedures set out in Schedule 5 to the District Councils Ordinance (Cap. 547). Having discussed with the District Officers across all 18 districts, the Home Affairs Department (“HAD”) standardised the procedures and arrangements for the elections of DC Chairmen and Vice-chairmen across the 18 districts starting from this DC term. The standardisation would serve to uphold the principles of openness and fairness, as well as enhancing the transparency of the elections, whereas District Offices could provide more effective and appropriate administrative support to the District Councils (“DCs”). Such arrangements were all in compliance with Schedule 5 to the District Councils Ordinance (Cap. 547). Standardised procedures included:

- (i) nomination for the Chairman and Vice-chairman would be closed one hour prior to the election meeting;
- (ii) candidates were required to submit the original copy of the nomination form in person;

- (iii) procedures laid down for withdrawal of candidature;
- (iv) all Members would be notified by the District Office concerned upon receipt of nomination for the Chairman/Vice-chairman;
- (v) Members were required to stamp the ballot paper with the “✓” chop distributed to them by the District Office concerned, and might choose to stamp the ballot paper in his or her seat or a voting compartment;
- (vi) definition of invalid votes; and
- (vii) procedures of drawing lots when candidates received the same number of votes.

3. Members raised no questions or comments regarding the election procedures.

Election of the Chairman of the TPDC

4. Mr. SO announced that the Secretariat had only received one valid nomination form by the end of the nomination period. Mr. CHEUNG Hok-ming was nominated by Mr. LI Kwok-ying and the nomination was seconded by Mr. Patrick TANG and Mr. LO Hiu-fung. Since there was only one candidate being nominated as Chairman of the TPDC, Mr. SO declared that according to Article 5 of Schedule 5 to the District Councils Ordinance (Cap. 547), Mr. CHEUNG Hok-ming was elected Chairman of the TPDC, with a term of office until 31 December 2019.

Election of the Vice-chairman of the TPDC

5. Mr. SO announced that the Secretariat had only received one valid nomination form by the end of the nomination period. Ms. WONG Pik-kiu was nominated by Mr. CHENG Chun-ping and the nomination was seconded by Mr. CHAN Cho-leung and Dr. LAU Chee-sing. Since there was only one candidate being nominated as Vice-chairman of the TPDC, Mr. SO declared that according to Article 5 of Schedule 5 to the District Councils Ordinance (Cap. 547), Ms WONG Pik-kiu was elected Vice-chairman of the TPDC, with a term of office until 31 December 2019.

Second Part

6. The Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, the new Chairman of the TPDC, took over the chair for the remainder of the meeting.
7. The Chairman thanked Members for electing him and Ms WONG as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the TPDC again.
8. The Chairman welcomed Members and the following departmental representatives, who had been in regular attendance, to the meeting:
 - (i) Mr. Bassanio SO, District Officer (Tai Po) of the HAD;
 - (ii) Miss Swing YAU, Assistant District Officer (Tai Po) of the HAD;
 - (iii) Mr. Patrick LAIDLER, District Commander (Tai Po) of the Hong Kong Police Force;
 - (iv) Mr. Ryan CHOY, District Lands Officer/Tai Po of the Lands Department (“LD”);
 - (v) Ms. Jessica YUEN, Administrative Assistant (Lands) of the Tai Po District Lands Office, LD;
 - (vi) Mr. SOH Chun-kwok, District Planning Officer (Sha Tin, Tai Po and North), of the Planning Department (“PlanD”);
 - (vii) Mr. LAW Man-tim, Chief Engineer (New Territories East) of the Civil Engineering and Development Department (Mr. LAW could not attend the meeting due to other engagement. Mr. Arthur HO, Senior Engineer, attended the meeting on his behalf);
 - (viii) Ms. Anna YEUNG, Chief Transport Officer (New Territories East) of the Transport Department (Ms. YEUNG could not attend the meeting due to other engagement. Mr. Gregory LO, Chief Transport Officer (Acting), attended the meeting on her behalf);
 - (ix) Mr. Steve LUK, Chief Manager/Management (Tai Po, North, Sha Tin and Sai Kung) of the Housing Department;
 - (x) Ms. KWAN Ngok-ying, Chief School Development Officer (Tai Po) of the Education Bureau;
 - (xi) Mr. YAM Mun-ho, District Social Welfare Officer (Tai Po/North) of the Social Welfare Department;

- (xii) Mr. TAM Hung-kong, District Leisure Manager (Tai Po) of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (“LCSD”);
- (xiii) Mr. MA Chi-yin, District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Tai Po) (Acting) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department;
- (xiv) Mr. Peter CHAN, Senior Liaison Officer of the Tai Po District Office (“TPDO”), HAD; and
- (xv) Mr. Harris CHAN, Senior Liaison Officer of the TPDO, HAD.

III. Endorsement of the Standing Orders of the TPDC

(TPDC Paper No. 1/2016)

9. Mr. LEUNG Siu-keung, Senior Executive Officer (District Council) of the TPDO, briefly introduced the contents of TPDC Paper No. 1/2016.

10. The TPDC endorsed the amendments set out in paragraphs 4 and 5 of TPDC Paper No. 1/2016, and the Standing Orders of the TPDC (“Standing Orders”) contained in the Annex to TPDC Paper No. 1/2016.

IV. Appointment of the Secretary of the TPDC

11. The TPDC endorsed the appointment of the staff member who for the time being hold, or might from time to time hold, the office of Senior Executive Officer (District Council) of the TPDO as the Secretary of the TPDC under Section 69(1) of the District Councils Ordinance (Cap. 547).

V. Formation, terms of reference and composition of the TPDC Committees and Working Groups

(TPDC Paper No. 2/2016)

12. The Secretary briefly introduced the contents of TPDC Paper No. 2/2016.

13. The TPDC endorsed the following proposals:

- (i) retaining the five TPDC committees and the two working groups of the last-term TPDC, and adopting the proposed terms of reference at Annexes I to VII;
- (ii) continuing the practice of requiring each Member to join at least one committee;
- (iii) continuing the practice of appointing Co-opted Members to committees, and of each Member nominating no more than one Co-opted Member to join no more than one committee, but there would not be any Co-opted Members in the District Facilities Management Committee;
- (iv) waiving the deadline for issuing the agendas of the first and second meetings of committees; and
- (v) requiring the committees to submit reports to the regular meetings of the TPDC held every two months.

14. As regards the term of office of the committees, Mr. CHENG Chun-ping suggested that it should be maintained at two years, so that Members could duly replace incompetent Co-opted Members, such as those who were often absent from meetings.

15. Mr. LI Kwok-ying proposed that the term of office of the committees be in line with that of the TPDC, which was four years, with a view to enhancing the continuity of the work of the committees. He enquired whether Members could replace Co-opted Members at any time during their term of office.

16. Mr. AU Chun-wah said that there was once a Co-opted Member who could not continue his service due to his busy schedule of public engagements in the last term and at that time, the Secretariat remarked that he had to resign before his nominator could nominate another person as a replacement.

17. Mr. Eric TAM opined that there would be better continuity in the work of the committees if their term of office was set at four years instead of two. He also held the view that before the appointment of the current-term Co-opted Members, the TPDC should establish a mechanism to appoint and dismiss them, so that nominators could replace Co-opted Members who were incompetent.

18. Mr. Ken YU agreed to the establishment of such a mechanism.

19. Mr. Francis YAM opined that nominators had no right to dismiss Co-opted Members who were incompetent and yet averse to resignation as there was no employer-employee relationship between them. According to his understanding, although the Standing Orders stipulated the requirements for appointment as a Co-opted Member, there were no provisions on their dismissal. He pointed out that the term of office of the TPDC committees, including those of the Chairmen, Vice-chairmen, Members and Co-opted Members, had been set at two years for a long time. Since the committees had run smoothly and achieved almost seamless transition, he therefore suggested that their term of office be maintained at two years to allow Members to select suitable candidates for the Chairmen, Vice-chairmen and Co-opted Members every two years. He believed that this arrangement could also hold the Chairmen, Vice-chairmen and Co-opted Members to account. He enquired whether there was any mechanism to dismiss the Chairmen and Vice-chairmen of the committees.

20. Mr. LI Yiu-ban agreed that the TPDC committees with a term of two years had operated smoothly in the past and even committees of the Legislative Council (“LegCo”) with a term of one year only had no interface problem at all. As the society now demanded greater transparency and accountability of the DCs, he supported fixing the term of office of the committees at two years. He opined that this arrangement could retain Members’ right of selecting the Chairmen of the committees every two years and build a more harmonious DC. In view of this, he saw no need to set up a dismissal mechanism.

21. Mr. LI Kwok-ying indicated that the term of office of Co-opted Members had nothing to do with that of the Chairmen of the TPDC committees. A committee might change its direction of work if a new Chairman was elected because the Chairman was the one who led it, thus giving rise to the continuity problem mentioned by him. On the contrary, the choice and performance of committee members were insignificant to the overall operation of the committees.

22. Mr. Clement WOO pointed out that the term of office of the committees should not be conflated with the performance and dismissal of the Chairmen, Vice-chairmen and Co-opted Members as they were two separate issues.

23. The Chairman said that the term of office of some committees of the 18 DCs was two years while others had a term of four. He pointed out that LegCo committees only comprised of LegCo Members but the committees of the DCs comprised of Co-opted Members as well. Furthermore, the capacity of Members and Co-opted Members were different. Electors could use their votes to express their views on Members’ performance.

24. Mr. LI Kwok-ying pointed out that although the Standing Orders did not spell out the procedures for dismissing the Chairman of a committee, Members could move a motion of no confidence against the Chairman at the meeting for fellow Members to make a decision on. He reiterated that the term of office of the committees should be four years.

25. The Secretary responded that the Standing Orders had not put in place a mechanism for the dismissal of the Chairman of a committee. However, just as what Mr. LI Kwok-ying had said, Members could propose a discussion on the competence of the Chairman of a committee according to Orders 13(1) and 13(2) of the Standing Orders. According to Order 34(5), if Co-opted Members were absent from committee meetings three times in a row without the committee's consent, they would lose their membership automatically. This was the only provision in the Standing Orders pertaining to the dismissal of Co-opted Members. Since Co-opted Members were appointed by the DCs, they could resign but not be dismissed by Members without a valid reason. As for the example given by Mr. AU, the TPDC accepted the resignation of that Co-opted Member on the grounds of his busy schedule of other public commitments, and allowed his nominator to nominate another person to fill the vacancy, which had been the TPDC's practice. Members could propose setting up a mechanism for the dismissal of Co-opted Members if they considered it necessary.

26. Mr. CHENG Chun-ping considered it difficult and embarrassing for Members to persuade the Co-opted Members whom they had nominated to resign. Therefore, he insisted on maintaining the term of office of Co-opted Members at two years.

27. Mr. Patrick TANG agreed that the continuity of the work of the committees was important. Therefore, he supported setting the term of office of the Chairmen and Vice-chairmen of the committees at four years while that of Co-opted Members at two years.

28. Mr. YAM Man-chuen disagreed with the idea that a two-year term would disrupt the work of the committees. He said that committee Members, be they Chairmen or Vice-chairmen, should have followed the committee issues all along and well-versed with their work plans and the Chairman was merely the person who presided at the meeting.

29. Mr. CHAN Siu-kuen remarked that he was once the Chairman of a TPDC committee with a two-year term and the committee had operated smoothly. Nevertheless, he agreed that the continuity of the work of committees should be taken into consideration. Furthermore, he pointed out that the minutes of committee meetings were available to the public, who could see whether the committees had done their job.

30. Mr. LI Kwok-ying accepted the proposal put forward by Mr. Patrick TANG, i.e. the term of office of the Chairmen and Vice-chairmen of the committees should be four years while that of Co-opted Members should be two.

31. The Secretary said that if the term of office of the Chairmen and Vice-chairmen of the committees was set at four years and Members could re-join the committees every two years, the committees would have to elect their Chairmen and Vice-chairmen again in case Members decided not to join the committees when their terms expired. He asked Members to consider whether the term of office of committee Members should be set at four years.

32. The Chairman summarised Mr. Patrick TANG's proposal as follows: the term of office of the committees (including the Chairmen, Vice-chairmen and Members) should be four years, while that of Co-opted Members should be two. Members could quit the committees if they wanted to and the DC should handle Co-opted Members' resignation according to the established practice.

33. Mr. AU Chun-wah pointed out that the change in the term of office of the committees would also affect that of their working groups.

34. Mr. KWAN Wing-yip considered that the working groups might not need two to four years to handle their work, and their term of office should be discussed by the respective committees.

35. Mr. Francis YAM requested the meeting to vote on Mr. Patrick TANG's proposal.

36. Mr. LI Kwok-ying seconded Mr. Patrick TANG's proposal.

37. The Chairman guided Members to vote on whether the term of office of the committees should be changed to four years, while that of Co-opted Members be maintained at two. The proposal was carried with 11 votes for it and 6 votes against it (the remaining Members present at the meeting abstained from voting).

38. The Chairman asked Members to nominate a suitable person as Chairman of the Working Group on Signature Projects of Tai Po District.

39. Mr. CHAN Cho-leung nominated Ms. WONG Pik-kiu for the said position and the motion was seconded by Mr. CHAN Siu-kuen. No other Members were nominated at the

meeting.

40. Ms. WONG Pik-kiu accepted the nomination.

41. The TPDC endorsed the appointment of Ms. WONG Pik-kiu as Chairman of the Working Group on Signature Projects of Tai Po District.

42. Since the editorial work of the 2012-2015 Report of the Tai Po District Council (“2012-2015 Report of the TPDC”) had commenced, the Chairman nominated Mr. Eric TAM, Chairman of the working group responsible for the editorial work in the last DC term, to keep chairing the Working Group on the 2012-2015 Report of the Tai Po District Council (“WG on the 2012-2015 Report of the TPDC”) of this term.

43. Mr. Eric TAM accepted the nomination. No other Members were nominated at the meeting.

44. The TPDC endorsed the appointment of Mr. Eric TAM as Chairman of the Working Group on the 2012-2015 Report of the TPDC.

45. The Chairman asked Members to fill in the form for joining the committees and working groups in Annex VIII of the aforesaid paper and return it to the Secretariat by 12:00 noon tomorrow.

VI. Creation and election mode of the Chairmen and Vice-chairmen of the TPDC Committees

(TPDC Paper No. 3/2016)

46. The Secretary briefly introduced the contents of TPDC Paper No. 3/2016.

47. The TPDC endorsed the retention of the posts of Vice-chairman of various TPDC committees. The election of the Chairmen and Vice-chairmen of the committees would be conducted as per the election mode of the Chairman and Vice-chairman of the TPDC.

VII. Schedule of meetings of the TPDC from March 2016 to December 2016

(TPDC Paper No. 4/2016)

48. The Secretary briefly introduced the contents of TPDC Paper No. 4/2016.

49. The TPDC endorsed the schedule of meetings of the TPDC from March 2016 to December 2016 set out in the above paper.

VIII. Schedule of meetings of the TPDC Committees from January 2016 to December 2016
(TPDC Paper No. 5/2016)

50. The Secretary briefly introduced the contents of TPDC Paper No. 5/2016.

51. The TPDC endorsed the schedule of meetings of its Committees from January 2016 to December 2016 set out in the above paper.

IX. Meet-the-Public Scheme of the TPDC
(TPDC Paper No. 6/2016)

52. The Secretary briefly introduced the contents of TPDC Paper No. 6/2016.

53. Mr. AU Chun-wah held the view that some members of the public called the Secretariat in the hope that the TPDC or a number of TPDC Members could help solve their problems by putting pressure on the Government. He suggested that the Meet-the-Public Scheme should model on the complaint handling system of the LegCo.

54. The Chairman pointed out that Mr. AU's suggestion was similar to the current practice of the Secretariat. He said that the Secretariat would make due arrangements upon receipt of public requests to meet some or all of the TPDC Members and there were actually such examples in the past.

55. The Secretary added that the Secretariat would help make appointment for members of the public to meet a specific Member or a Member of the constituency concerned. For major issues involving a number of Members, the Secretariat could also make appointment for members of the public to meet all of them.

56. The TPDC endorsed the approach set out in the above paper to the implementation of the Meet-the-Public Scheme.

X. Endorsement of the allocation budget of TPDC Funds for 2015/2016 and the Guidelines on TPDC Funds

(TPDC Paper No. 7/2016)

57. The Secretary briefly introduced the contents of TPDC Paper No. 7/2016.

58. The meeting noted the allocation budget of TPDC funds for 2015/2016 and the Guidelines on TPDC Funds. They also endorsed using part of the allocation of \$885,000 reserved for this DC term as mentioned in paragraph 7 of the above paper to meet the expenditure of seven community involvement activities held between January 2016 and March 2016.

XI. Issues to be followed up by the TPDC

(TPDC Paper No. 8/2016)

59. Members noted the contents of TPDC Paper No. 8/2016.

60. The Chairman asked the Secretariat to follow up related work.

XII. District Management Committee Report to the TPDC

(TPDC Paper No. 9/2016)

61. Members noted the contents of the report. The departmental representatives attending the meeting had nothing to add.

XIII. Applications for DC Funds

(TPDC Papers No. 10/2016 and 11/2016)

62. The Chairman asked Members to declare interests as necessary on the funding applications submitted for the TPDC's approval.

63. The Secretary reported that this meeting had to consider six funding applications and pursuant to Order 48(9) and 48(10) of the Standing Orders, a Member should declare interests if he found he had any direct personal interests, pecuniary interests or other interests in the

funding applications under consideration, or had any links with the benefited party or potential benefited party. The Secretariat had compiled an Excel table based on the information collected, setting out the links between Members and the organisers, joint organiser or co-organisers of the activities to be held. The Excel table had been placed on the meeting table (see Annex to the meeting minutes). He asked Members to check the information contained in the Excel table and make revisions or give supplementary information when necessary. In addition to the links between Members and the organisers, joint organiser or co-organisers of the activities to be held, a Member should also declare interests if he had any direct personal interests, pecuniary interests or other interests in the funding applications under consideration of this meeting.

64. Members declared interests according to the information set out in the Excel table.

65. The Chairman said that he had disclosed his links with the organiser of “Tai Po District Dragon Boat Racing 2016”. Pursuant to Order 48(11) of the Standing Orders, he asked the Vice-chairman to decide whether he might speak or vote on the funding application concerned, might remain in the meeting as an observer, or should withdraw from the meeting.

66. Ms. WONG Pik-kiu remarked that although the Chairman had links with the organiser of the activity, no pecuniary interests or other interests were involved. She proposed there was no need for the Chairman to withdraw from the meeting when the meeting considered the funding application. However, he should remain silent and not participate in the discussion of or vote on the resolution. Members consented to the above arrangements.

67. The Chairman made the following suggestions regarding Members who had declared interests:

- (i) if a Member held bona fide post in the organisers, joint organiser or co-organisers but was not involved with pecuniary interests or other interests, he needed not withdraw from the meeting when the funding application of the relevant activity was discussed. However, he should remain silent and not participate in the discussion of or vote on the resolution. Besides, the Chairman could ask him to provide supplementary information when necessary; and
- (ii) if a Member held honorary post in the organisers, joint organiser or co-organisers and was not involved with pecuniary interests or other interests, he might participate in the discussion of and vote on the funding application of the relevant activity.

68. Members consented to the approach suggested by the Chairman.

69. The Secretary briefly introduced the contents of TPDC Paper No. 10/2016.

70. After discussion, the TPDC resolved to approve the following funding allocations for activities which were believed to be within the scope of DC Funds and would benefit people living, working or studying in Tai Po:

- (i) \$2,107,280 to the Tai Po District Leisure Services Office of the LCSD to launch 627 recreation and sports programmes in Tai Po during April 2016 to September 2016.
- (ii) \$2,060,888 to the Tai Po District Leisure Services Office of the LCSD to launch 434 recreation and sports programmes in Tai Po during October 2016 to March 2017.
- (iii) \$746,000 to the Cultural Services Office (New Territories East) of the LCSD to organise free entertainment programmes during April 2016 to March 2017.
- (iv) \$1,000,000 to the Tai Po District Dragon Boat Race Committee to stage the Tai Po District Dragon Boat Race 2016 with the Tai Po Sports Association. The expenditure ceiling had also been lifted.
- (v) \$110,000 to the WG on the 2012-2015 Report of the TPDC to produce the 2012-2015 Report of the TPDC.

71. Members also noted 47 applications for DC Funds approved by the TPDC and its Committees after the last meeting of the previous term and before the suspension of DC operation.

72. The Secretary briefly introduced the contents of TPDC Paper No. 11/2016.

73. The TPDC endorsed an allocation of \$1,784,000 in the 2016-2017 financial year to the TPDO for the employment of eight non-civil service contract staff to assist in the discharge of the duties of the TPDC.

XIV. Demand for Abolishment of Primary Three TSA and a Review on the TSA **(TPDC Paper No. 12/2016)**

74. The Chairman said that the Secretariat received a letter on 16 December 2015 from Mr.

LAU Yung-wai requesting the TPDC to discuss the abolishment of Primary Three TSA and a review on the TSA. He asked Mr. LAU to introduce the contents of TPDC Paper No. 12/2016.

75. Mr. LAU Yung-wai briefly introduced the contents of TPDC Paper No. 12/2016.

76. Since the issue fell within the purview of the Social Services Committee, the Chairman suggested, in accordance with the usual practice, referring it to that Committee for follow-up and inviting representatives from the departments concerned to attend the next meeting to respond to Members' questions.

77. Mr. LAU agreed to the Chairman's suggestion.

XV. Demand for a review on the Management Scheme for the Display of Roadside Non-commercial Publicity Materials and additional spaces and quota for the TPDC Members for such display in Tai Po District
(TPDC Paper No. 13/2016)

78. The Chairman said that the Secretariat received a letter on 21 December 2015 from Mr. AU Chun-wah, requesting for a discussion on the Management Scheme for the Display of Roadside Non-commercial Publicity Materials ("the Scheme"). He asked Mr. AU to introduce the contents of TPDC Paper No. 13/2016.

79. Mr. AU Chun-wah briefly introduced the contents of TPDC Paper No. 13/2016. He remarked that in previous discussions on the issue with the departments concerned, the usual response received was that the Scheme was formulated based on the advice given by the DCs and therefore, any changes had to be considered by the DCs first. He pointed out that, at present, only five spots in the district were allocated to each TPDC Member for displaying banners and this limited the promotion work of Members from constituencies where there were no public housing estates.

80. Since the issue fell within the purview of the Environment, Housing and Works Committee, the Chairman suggested, in accordance with the usual practice, referring it to that Committee for follow-up and inviting representatives from the departments concerned to attend the next meeting to respond to Members' questions.

81. Mr. AU agreed to the Chairman's suggestion.

XVI. Any Other Business

(1) Authority for payment to a bank

82. The Chairman asked Members to fill out the authorisation form for payment to a bank and return it to the Secretariat on or before 13 January 2016 to facilitate the arrangements for payment of honorarium and allowances.

(2) Declaration of interests by TPDC Members

83. The Chairman asked Members to fill out the Personal Interests Registration Form and return it to the Secretariat on or before 21 January 2016 for record and public inspection. He reminded Members that the form for use in the current term had been updated and the completed forms would be uploaded to the TPDC website for public inspection.

(3) Personal Particulars of TPDC Members

84. The Chairman asked Members to fill out the Curriculum Vitae Form and return it to the Secretariat on or before 21 January 2016 for record.

(4) New Territories Walk for the Millions

(TPDC Paper No. 14/2016)

85. The Chairman said that the 2015/2016 Community Chest New Territories Walk for the Millions would be held on 13 March 2016 (Sunday). The 4.5 km-walk would start from the viewing terrace on the promenade of the Tai Po Waterfront Park, proceed along Lam Tsuen River and finish at the Plover Cove Road Mini-soccer Pitch. The TPDC had teamed up with the Tai Po District Primary School Heads Association (“the Association”) to form a VIP team to participate in the Walk in the past few years. This year, a VIP would have to meet a fundraising minimum of \$50,000, which was the same as that of last year.

86. The TPDC agreed to continue teaming up with the Association to form a VIP team to participate in this year's New Territories Walk for the Millions. Of the fundraising minimum of \$50,000, \$20,000 would come from the TPDC Social Fund while the remaining \$30,000 would be raised by the Association.

87. The Chairman suggested that Members not contributing to the TPDC Social Fund donate in their private capacities so as to participate in the Walk. Members agreed to this.

88. The Chairman asked the Secretariat to arrange for coaches to take Members and other representatives joining the VIP team from Tai Po to the start point of the walk to attend the Starting Ceremony.

(5) **Nomination of a TPDC Representative to the Regional Advisory Committee of the Hospital Authority**
(TPDC Paper No. 15/2016)

89. The Chairman said that the Hospital Authority ("HA") had recently written to invite the TPDC to nominate a Member for the HA to consider for appointment to its New Territories Regional Advisory Committee from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2018. Mr. LI Kwok-ying was currently the TPDC's representative to the said committee and his term of office would expire on 31 March 2016. The relevant guidelines of the HA specified that the length of service of a member of the said committee should not exceed 10 years. However, Mr. LI Kwok-ying had served in it for 10 years. Therefore, Members were asked to nominate another suitable Member.

90. Mr. LI Kwok-ying nominated Dr. LAU Chee-sing to the said committee. No other Members were nominated.

91. Dr. LAU Chee-sing accepted the nomination.

92. The TPDC agreed to nominate Dr. LAU Chee-sing as the TPDC's representative to the said committee from 2016 to 2018.

(6) **Nomination of TPDC representatives to the Market Management Consultative Committee of public markets under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department**

(TPDC Paper No. 16/2016)

93. The Chairman asked Members to nominate two pairs of Members other than the Members of the constituencies concerned to the Market Management Consultative Committee (“MMCC”) of Tai Po Hui Market and Plover Cove Road Market respectively.

94. Mr. YU Chi-wing nominated Mr. CHAN Cho-leung and Mr. LO Hiu-fung to the Tai Po Hui MMCC. No other Members were nominated.

95. Mr. CHAN Cho-leung and Mr. LO Hiu-fung accepted the nominations.

96. Mr. Eric TAM nominated Mr. Clement WOO and Dr. LAU Chee-sing to the Plover Cove Road MMCC. No other Members were nominated.

97. Mr. Clement WOO and Dr. LAU Chee-sing accepted the nominations.

98. The TPDC agreed to recommend the following Members to the two MMCCs:

(i) Tai Po Hui MMCC:

Mr. LI Kwok-ying (Member of the constituency concerned)

Mr. CHAN Cho-leung

Mr. LO Hiu-fung

(ii) Plover Cove Road MMCC:

Ms. WONG Pik-kiu (Member of the constituency concerned)

Mr. Clement WOO

Dr. LAU Chee-sing

(7) **Establishment of the TPDC Social Fund and appointment of convener(s) of social activities of the TPDC**

99. The Chairman indicated that the TPDC of the last term established the TPDC Social Fund with contributions made by Members on a voluntary basis. The fund was mainly used

for organising official entertainment and social activities in the name of the TPDC. The accounts of the fund were managed by the TPDC-appointed convener(s) of social activities. He asked Members to consider whether or not to set up the said fund again.

100. The TPDC endorsed the re-establishment of the said fund. Mr. CHAN Siu-kuen nominated Mr. Rex LI as the convener of social activities.

101. Mr. Rex LI accepted the nomination.

102. The TPDC endorsed the appointment of Mr. Rex LI as the convener of social activities.

(8) Brief Introduction to the Work of DCs

103. The Secretary reported that the Secretariat had written to all Members earlier, inviting them to attend two briefing sessions on the work of the DCs organised by the HAD. The two briefing sessions would be held respectively on 8 January 2016 (Friday) at Henry G. Leong Yaumatei Community Centre and 12 January 2016 (Tuesday) at Princess Alexandra Community Centre, Tsuen Wan. Members might choose to attend any one of the briefing sessions. In particular, the Secretary encouraged newly-elected Members and their assistants to attend the briefing sessions to get a better understanding of the work of the DCs and the rules on the application for honorarium, allowances and expenses reimbursements.

(9) Authorisation for the relevant committee to establish a non-standing Working Group on Review of Guidelines on Allocation of District Council Funds

104. The Chairman said that every year the TPDC would review the Guidelines on Allocation of District Council Funds by drawing on the experience in handling funding applications over the past year. The TPDC agreed to authorise the Agriculture, Fisheries, Commerce, Industries, Tourism and Recreation Affairs Committee to establish the said working group to review the funding guidelines.

XVII. Date of Next Meeting

105. The next meeting would be held at 9:30 a.m. on 3 March 2016 (Thursday).

106. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Tai Po District Council Secretariat

March 2016