

**Minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting in 2022**  
**of the Planning, Housing and Works Committee**  
**of Tai Po District Council**

Date: 15 November 2022 (Tuesday)

Time: 9:34 a.m. - 10:39 a.m.

Venue: Conference Room, Tai Po District Council (“TPDC”)

<b><u>Present</u></b>	<b><u>Time of Arrival</u></b>	<b><u>Time of Withdrawal</u></b>
<b><u>Chairman</u></b>		
Mr. AU Chun-ho	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
<b><u>Vice-chairman</u></b>		
Mr. TAM Yi-pui	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
<b><u>Members</u></b>		
Mr. HO Wai-lam	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. LI Yiu-ban, BBS, MH, JP	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. MO Ka-chun, Patrick	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
<b><u>Secretary</u></b>		
Miss LO Tin-wai, Tiffany	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Executive Officer (District Council) 1 / Tai Po District Office (“TPDO”) / Home Affairs Department (“HAD”)		
<b><u>In Attendance</u></b>		
Mr. LEUNG Sui-hei, Feddy	Town Planner / Tai Po 1 / Planning Department (“PlanD”)	
Ms. CHAN Wai-mei, May	Senior Housing Manager (Tai Po, North and Sha Tin 2) / Housing Department (“HD”)	
Ms. LO Sik-chi, Cynthia	Engineer / 22 (North) / Civil Engineering and Development Department (“CEDD”)	
Ms. LEE Che-ying, Emily	Engineer / New Territories East (Distribution 4) / Water Supplies Department (“WSD”)	
Mr. LAM Chun-ting	Senior Health Inspector (Cleansing & Pest Control) Tai Po 1 / Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (“FEHD”)	
Mr. CHONG Yiu-hung	Health Inspector (Cleansing Special Duties) Tai Po 2 / FEHD	

Mr. TSUI Chun-sing	Administration Assistant / Lands (Atg.) / District Lands Office, Tai Po (“TPDLO”) / Lands Department (LandsD)
Mr. LUI Kan-man, Raymond	Senior Liaison Officer (1) / TPDO / HAD
Mr. WU Chi-hung, Derek	Senior Executive Officers (District Council) / TPDO / HAD

**Absent**

Mr. LAM Yick-kuen, MH

Mr. LAU Yung-wai

**Opening Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed participants to this Planning, Housing and Works Committee (“PHWC”) meeting, and announced that Mr. LEUNG Sui-hei, Feddy, Town Planner / Tai Po 1 of PlanD, attended this meeting in place of Mr. LAU Ka-wing, Kevin, Senior Town Planner / Tai Po on a temporary basis.

**I. Confirmation of the minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting in 2022 of the PHWC on 20 September 2022**

(TPDC Paper No. PHW 42/2022)

2. The Secretariat did not receive any proposed amendments to the minutes before the meeting. The Chairman asked if Members had any proposed amendments.

3. As Members did not have any proposed amendments, the afore-mentioned minutes were confirmed.

**II. Food and Environmental Hygiene Department – Refurbishment of Tai Po Market MTR Station Public Toilet**

(TPDC Paper No. PHW 43/2022)

4. The Chairman welcomed Messrs LAM Chun-ting and CHONG Yiu-hung, Senior Health Inspector (Cleansing & Pest Control) Tai Po 1 and Health Inspector (Cleansing Special Duties) Tai Po 2 of FEHD respectively, to the meeting for this agenda item.

5. Mr. LAM Chun-ting went through TPDC Paper No. PHW 43/2022.

6. Mr. MO Ka-chun, Patrick's comments and questions were as follows:

- (i) He asked whether all the water closets in the refurbished cubicles were pedestal type or some of them were squatting type.
- (ii) The captioned public toilet had a relatively high usage rate. He hoped that the department would pay more attention to its cleanliness.
- (iii) According to the layout plans provided at Annexes II and III to the captioned paper, there would be an attendant room adjacent to each toilet. He asked whether the attendant room was mainly used for storage or could be used as a common room for toilet attendants to take rest.

7. Mr. LAM Chun-ting responded as follows:

- (i) All cubicles would be fitted with pedestal type water closets upon refurbishment of the public toilet.
- (ii) The attendant rooms would mainly be provided for toilet attendants to take rest. In addition, miscellaneous items and consumables needed for the public toilet would also be placed inside the attendant room.
- (iii) At present, an attendant room was shared by the two toilet attendants. Upon refurbishment of the public toilet, attendant rooms would be provided in both toilets for the respective use of the two toilet attendants.

8. Mr. Patrick MO said that he was worried that the attendant rooms would be rather stuffy when the weather was hot and humid and toilet attendants would easily feel uncomfortable. As such, he hoped that the department would enhance the ventilation system of the attendant rooms. Besides, there was always standing water on the floor of the public toilet. He suggested that the department carefully examine the location of the pipelines during refurbishment.

9. The Chairman asked where the department would set up temporary portable toilets during the refurbishment works.

10. Mr. LAM Chun-ting responded that the location of temporary portable toilets had yet to be finalised. The department would identify a suitable location nearby for further arrangements.

(Post-meeting note: The FEHD noted the comments in paragraph 8 above and would pay attention to the situation concerned.)

11. The Chairman pointed out that as the usage rate of the public toilet was high, he asked the department to notify Members when relevant information was available so that Members could

disseminate the information on the temporary arrangements to residents in the district.

12. Mr. LAM Chun-ting responded that he would notify Members when relevant information was available.

**III. Request for immediate suspension, re-examination and planning of the secondary and primary school sites which are under planning in Tai Po District**

(TPDC Paper No. PHW 44/2022 (Revised) and PHW 44a/2022)

13. The Chairman said that Mr. LAU Yung-wai submitted the captioned paper on 11 October. As Mr. LAU was absent from the meeting, Mr. Patrick MO, one of the signatories, would go through the paper on his behalf.

14. Mr. Patrick MO went through TPDC Paper No. PHW 44/2022 (Revised).

15. The Chairman said that the PlanD had contacted the Education Bureau (“EDB”), CEDD, HD, Transport Department and Social Welfare Department (“SWD”) regarding the captioned matter earlier, and subsequently submitted a consolidated written reply with the EDB, CEDD and SWD. He asked Members to refer to TPDC Paper No. PHW 44a/2022.

16. Mr. LEUNG Siu-hei, Feddy had nothing to add on TPDC Paper No. PHW 44a/2022.

17. Mr. LI Yiu-ban’s comments were as follows:

- (i) It might not be appropriate to request for a uniform suspension, re-examination and planning of the secondary and primary school sites which were under planning in Tai Po District (including new development areas (“NDAs”) and old areas). As the EDB encouraged primary school students to study in nearby schools, he opined that there was a need to plan for secondary and primary schools in NDAs to meet the relevant demand.
- (ii) He suggested amending the motion to “request for a comprehensive examination and planning of the secondary and primary school sites which are under planning in Tai Po District”. He emphasised that a comprehensive examination could not only urge the bureau to relocate schools in the district with low enrolment to new school premises in NDAs for continuous operation, but also demolish the old school premises for redevelopment into facilities that better met the needs of the district (such as carparks). He believed that this would be more beneficial to the overall development of the district.

18. Mr. TAM Yi-pui, the Vice-chairman's comments were as follows:

- (i) The captioned paper mainly focused on discussing the massive reduction of classes and closure of schools caused by the decline in population and number of students in Hong Kong. He opined that the trend of declining population and number of students would sustain in the years ahead. To his understanding, primary schools in some districts even had to reduce by eight to nine classes. He therefore considered the captioned recommendation appropriate, and hoped that the PlanD would take note of Members' comments. He also indicated that he was personally inclined to support the motion.
- (ii) Sai Kung North was one of the NDAs. Although Sai Kung North was not in the school net of Tai Po District, there was already an international school under planning, and sites in Sai Keng and Che Ha were reserved for school development. As such, he opined that the current planning was sufficient to meet the demand for school premises in NDAs.
- (iii) Most of the NDAs were located in rural areas, and it was believed that students would choose to travel to school by transport. As such, he opined that apart from schools, social welfare facilities providing support to the elderly, waste management facilities and related supporting facilities (such as common rooms for cleansing workmen, etc.) were more inadequate in NDAs.

19. Mr. Patrick MO asked about the usual procedures for the HD to carry out the site formation works, planning and construction of schools.

20. Mr. LI Yiu-ban's comments were as follows:

- (i) In the 1990s, the planning of Shap Sz Heung covered a secondary school and a primary school. However, due to the subsequent massive closure of schools in the 2000s, the EDB opined that the two school sites reserved were no longer necessary.
- (ii) At present, around 13 000 to 14 000 public and private housing units were under construction in Sai Kung North, and tens of thousands of residents would move into the area by then. As such, even with the drop in the number of births, he believed that there was still a need for children to attend school in the area. If the school planning for Sai Kung North was immediately suspended, he worried that it might lead to cross-district schooling for school children by then.
- (iii) He believed that the proposal of conducting a comprehensive examination could relocate schools with a surplus of school places in Tai Po Hui to new school premises in NDAs for operation. This would not only not increase the number of schools, but

also respond to the need of school children in NDAs. As for the vacant school premises in the district, they could be used for other purposes (such as elderly facilities). He believed that the need for elderly support in old areas was greater than that in NDAs.

21. Mr. Feddy LEUNG responded as follows:

- (i) The PlanD noted Members' comments on the comprehensive examination of school provision in the district, and would continue to communicate with relevant government departments, especially the EDB. Besides, the department noted Members' comments on the need for public sector schools in rural areas. It also learnt that the EDB had reserved two school sites for the large-scale comprehensive development project in Shap Sze Heung, so as to serve the new population in that area.
- (ii) As the relocation of schools in the district involved issues such as the redeployment of school operation, the PlanD would relay the relevant comments to the EDB.
- (iii) The conversion of old school premises into community facilities occurred from time to time. He raised an example that the old school premises of CCC Kei Ching Primary School at Fu Shin Estate were being converted into a multi-welfare services complex. He pointed out that if the EDB decided to vacate old school premises, the bureau would examine the needs of the population and community in accordance with the established procedures, and at the same time consider releasing the sites for other suitable uses, which included the provision of other community facilities, having taken into account the site conditions.
- (iv) The PlanD and SWD had maintained sustained communication on the matters relating to the provision of elderly and social welfare facilities in rural areas. Whenever a large-scale development project was implemented, the PlanD would consult the SWD on the provision of social welfare facilities.
- (v) Regarding the enquiry in paragraph 19 above, to his understanding, the site formation works might involve land resumption. As such, the CEDD would consult the prospective user departments on the design before commencing the site formation works. Taking the construction of a school as an example, the relevant department would consult the EDB on the design of the site formation works when taking forward the works. The CEDD would develop the scope of works according to the design of the site formation works and, if necessary, carry out land resumption so as to take forward the relevant site formation works.
- (vi) If the bureau finally decided that there was no need to construct the school, the PlanD would consult relevant departments (such as the HD, etc.) having regard to the site

conditions and then decide on the provision of other facilities or adjusting housing supply. He suggested that the HD should elaborate on the above procedures.

(Post-meeting note: In response to the procedures mentioned in paragraph 21(vi) above, the CEDD added that if the bureau finally decided that there was no need to construct the school, the CEDD would modify the design of the site formation works to accommodate new uses.)

22. Ms. CHAN Wai-mei, May, added that upon receipt of a site, the HD would hand it over to its Development and Construction Division (“DCD”) to determine the number of units to be supplied according to the plot ratio set out in the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines (“HKPSG”). The DCD would also determine whether the site would be developed as public rental estates or subsidised sale housing.

23. Mr. Patrick MO asked if the EDB decided to give up the land originally reserved for the construction of school, whether the Government would still carry out land resumption for housing development or other purposes before reserving another piece of vacant land for school development, and whether matters relating to the rezoning of land use were proposed by the responsible department.

24. Mr. Feddy LEUNG responded as follows:

- (i) To his understanding, regarding public housing developments (“PHDs”) involving land resumption and site formation works, if the relevant land had been reserved to the EDB for the construction of school but the bureau eventually decided to give up the relevant land, the CEDD could not initiate the land resumption procedures first, but had to wait until the land use of the relevant land had been confirmed. The land resumption procedures could then be initiated as appropriate. He asked the CEDD to supplement later on.
- (ii) Before completion of the land resumption procedures and the commencement of site formation works, if the bureau decided to give up the school development on the site, the Government would handle the idle land in accordance with the established mechanism. The PlanD would also discuss the land use of that land with various departments and consult the District Council (“DC”) in a timely manner.

(Post-meeting note: In response to the reply in paragraph 24(i) above, the CEDD added that if the relevant land would be rezoned, the CEDD would modify the design of the site formation works to accommodate new uses. As such, the CEDD could not initiate the land resumption procedures first.)

25. Mr. Patrick MO asked whether the land would be rezoned as residential site or “government, institution or community facilities” site if the bureau gave up the relevant land during the site formation works.

26. Mr. Feddy LEUNG responded that regarding the PHDs currently being implemented in Tai Po District, such as the PHD at Chung Nga Road West and PHD at To Yuen Tung, both of them were within “Residential (Group A)” (“R(A)”) zone on statutory town plans, and school uses were “always permitted uses” within the zone. Apart from school, uses such as social welfare facility, public clinic, market, library and flat were also “always permitted uses” of “R(A)” zone. For other land uses that did not fall within “always permitted uses”, they could also be dealt with by the mechanism of making application for planning permission to the Town Planning Board (“TPB”).

27. Mr. HO Wai-lam’s comments were as follows:

- (i) He had repeatedly mentioned in the past that facilities such as carpark and market were inadequate in the PHD at Chung Nga Road West. He hoped that the Government could improve the situation by adopting the “single site, multiple use” model.
- (ii) As many sites were under development in Tai Po District, a uniform suspension of school planning might not be appropriate. Instead, it would be more ideal to “re-examine” or raise specific requests for individual development projects.

28. Mr. Patrick MO’s comments were as follows:

- (i) He agreed with Members that there were many dilapidated school premises in the district (such as the few schools in Tai Yuen Estate) that could not cope with the current development needs. As such, he opined that it would be most desirable if these schools were given priority for relocation. In addition, as the use of social welfare facilities fell within “always permitted uses” in “R(A)” zone, no separate planning permission was required. He believed that the relevant PHD had room to build social welfare facilities.
- (ii) He suggested modifying the motion to “The Planning, Housing and Works Committee of the Tai Po District Council requests for a comprehensive examination of the school sites in Tai Po District and considers appropriate community development.” He believed that the above motion could reflect the various concerns of Members.

29. Mr. TAM Yi-pui, the Vice-chairman, pointed out that it seemed to be Mr. LAU Yung-wai’s focus to indicate “request for immediate suspension” in the title of the captioned agenda item, but

he did not object to the amendments proposed by Members. He considered that the word “re-examine” was ambiguous and hoped that the motion could reflect specific requests, such as inviting the TPDC to participate in the examination process, or consulting the TPDC on any matters relating to the planning of school sites in Tai Po District.

30. Mr. Feddy LEUNG responded as follows:

- (i) Whenever a large-scale development project was implemented, the PlanD would consult the EDB on the reservation of school sites. The department always maintained close communication with the EDB on PHDs in the district (such as the PHD at To Yuen Tung). Although the department would from time to time review the supply of school places in the district according to the relevant guidelines in the HKPSG, it was believed that the EDB had its own consideration and he would relay Members’ comments to the bureau later on.
- (ii) Regarding future consultation procedures involving school planning, the bureau would inform the DC according to the existing established mechanism when taking forward new development projects. Besides, the HD would also consult the DC during the detailed design stage of PHDs so that DC members could learn about their latest development.

31. Mr. TAM Yi-pui, the Vice-chairman, suggested adding “requests to consult the Tai Po District Council in the examination process” to the motion.

32. Mr. Patrick MO said that the Government had all along consulted the DC on planning matters relating to PHDs (such as the PHD at Tai Po Area 9), but nearby residents were only informed of the plans at a later stage. He reminded that all government departments should consult stakeholders (such as nearby incorporated owners, owner’s committee and residents’ organisations) as early as practicable before taking forward any plans that might be controversial in the future.

33. The Chairman concurred with the views of Mr. Patrick MO, and hoped that relevant departments could inform stakeholders and consult local residents on any development in the district in the future as soon as possible so that they could learn about the relevant development plan as early as possible.

34. The Chairman announced that he was about to deal with a motion moved by Mr. Patrick MO as follows:

“The Planning, Housing and Works Committee of the Tai Po District Council requests the Government to conduct a comprehensive examination of the school sites in Tai Po District for consideration of pursuing appropriate community development and to consult the Tai Po

District Council in the examination process.”

The motion was moved by Mr. Patrick MO and seconded by Mr. AU Chun-ho, the Chairman.

35. Mr. LI Yiu-ban asked whether the above motion was an amendment motion.

36. The Chairman said that the above motion was not an amendment motion. Instead, it was based on the original proposed motion with modifications made by Mr. Patrick MO according to the content of discussion.

37. Members did not propose any amendment motions.

38. The Chairman asked Members to vote on the above motion. Members agreed to vote by open ballot, and the result was as follows:

For:	5 votes	Mr. AU Chun-ho, the Chairman, Mr. TAM Yi-pui, the Vice-chairman, Mr. HO Wai-lam, Mr. LI Yiu-ban and Mr. MO Ka-chun, Patrick
Against:	0 vote	
Abstention:	0 vote	
Present without voting:	0 vote	
Absent without voting:	0 vote	
Total:	5 votes	

39. The Chairman announced that the above motion was carried and asked the relevant departments to note Members’ comments.

**IV. District Lands Office, Tai Po – Report on matters relating to the illegal structures on and illegal occupation of Government lands**  
(TPDC Paper No. PHW 45/2022)

40. Mr. TSUI Chun-sing went through TPDC Paper No. PHW 45/2022.

41. Members noted the captioned report.

V. **District Lands Office, Tai Po – Report on the progress of processing redevelopment applications of small houses and old houses in Tai Po District**  
(TPDC Paper No. PHW 46/2022)

42. Mr. TSUI Chun-sing went through TPDC Paper No. PHW 46/2022.

43. Mr. LI Yiu-ban's comments were as follows:

- (i) He was pleased to see an increase in the number of applications under processing by the TPDLO and opined that the situation had improved. He pointed out that the small house (“SH”) applications in the past years were subject to legal proceedings, which had impeded the progress of processing and created a backlog of pending cases. The relevant legal issues had now been clarified to ensure that all components under the SH policy were lawful and constitutional. He found the situation very unsatisfactory as it took four to five or even up to seven years for simple SH application procedures. In the past, the department undertook to approve the applications within 180 days after initiating the vetting and approval procedures. However, the backlog of cases had led to lengthened processing time. As such, he hoped that the TPDLO would deploy additional manpower to handle the backlog of cases so that the applications could be approved as soon as possible.
- (ii) Some villagers complained that it took almost three years for them to obtain the letter of no objection to occupy (commonly known as “the occupation certificate”) upon completion of the construction of a SH. In the past, applicants could still move into the SHs even if the occupation certificate had not been granted. However, due to the current stringent policy, if an inspector found any daily necessities in the house, the applicants were considered to have moved into the SH and this would affect the granting of the Certificate of Compliance, which was highly unsatisfactory. It was indeed baffling that members of the public who spent several million dollars on building SHs had to wait for more than a few years for their application to be approved and still, they had to wait for a few years more before moving in. He hoped that the LandsD would improve the relevant procedures.

44. The Chairman said that other Members had also mentioned at PHWC meetings in the past that the vetting and approval procedures were time-consuming, and hoped that the TPDLO would review whether there was a need to increase manpower in this regard.

45. Mr. TSUI Chun-sing indicated that he had noted Members' comments.

**VI. Planning Department – Report on the progress of processing planning applications in Tai Po District by the Town Planning Board and its Rural and New Town Planning Committee**  
**(TPDC Paper No. PHW 47/2022)**

46. Mr. Feddy LEUNG went through TPDC Paper No. PHW 47/2022.

47. Members noted the captioned report.

**VII. Housing Department – Report on the information relating to the vacant housing units, execution of the Marking Scheme for Estate Management Enforcement, and the vacant storage rooms in the public housing estates in Tai Po District**  
**(TPDC Paper No. PHW 48/2022)**

48. Ms. May CHAN went through TPDC Paper No. PHW 48/2022.

49. Mr. Patrick MO pointed out that the total number of flats “reserved for next sale” in Wan Tau Tong Estate, Tai Wo Estate, Fu Heng Estate and Fu Shin Estate was set out in “information on vacant public housing units” in the captioned report. He asked about the time and details of the next sale of those units.

50. Ms. May CHAN responded that the HD had recently launched the sale of a batch of recovered Tenants Purchase Scheme (“TPS”) flats. She would provide the date of sale of the flats and relevant information to Mr. Patrick MO at a later time.

(Post-meeting note: The HD had replied Mr. Patrick MO by phone on 17 November 2022, stating that she did not have the details and timetable for the next sale of recovered TPS flats.)

51. Mr. Patrick MO’s questions were as follows:

- (i) He asked about the difference between “the total number of flats for sale” and the bracketed total number of flats “reserved for next sale” in the column of the number of flats for sale in the captioned report.
- (ii) He asked whether sitting tenants would be prioritised to purchase their own TPS flats.

52. Ms. May CHAN responded that sitting tenants could purchase the TPS flats in which they were residing.

53. Members noted the captioned report.

## VIII. Any other business

### (1) Matters relating to pipe burst in Tai Po District

54. Mr. HO Wai-lam said that the pipe bursts in the district recently were believed to be mainly due to the aging of pipes. He asked whether the usual practice of the WSD was to replace the burst pipes or to conduct routine regular inspections for replacement of pipes, and whether the department could prevent the situation from happening at an early stage.

55. Ms. LEE Che-ying, Emily, responded that the WSD conducted regular leak detection and related maintenance work as preventive measures to reduce water pipe burst incidents and maintain the stability of water supply. The WSD would plan for replacement of pipes whenever the pipes were found to be in a poor condition or with a potential risk of major leakage. For those pipes that required improvement but not emergency repair works, the department would include them in its risk assessment projects and replace them in conjunction with its large-scale works.

56. Mr. HO Wai-lam commended the WSD for its prompt response in handling pipe burst incidents.

57. The Chairman pointed out that there had been frequent pipe bursts in the district in recent months, but representatives of the WSD promptly responded to all the incidents, which was commendable. He understood that pipe burst was unpredictable. Still, he hoped that the department could prevent reoccurrence of similar incidents which would affect residents.

### (2) Matters relating to a Land Sharing Pilot Scheme application in Lam Tsuen, Tai Po

58. Mr. Patrick MO said that he learnt that the Government had received a Land Sharing Pilot Scheme (“LSPS”) application concerning a site in the area of Lam Tsuen earlier, but he had not seen the relevant rezoning application. As such, he would like to ask about the latest progress of the application.

59. Mr. Feddy LEUNG responded that the LSPS was implemented by the Development Bureau. The relevant project was preliminarily approved by the Executive Council but it did not mean that the relevant planning procedures had been completed. The PlanD would only initiate the procedures for amendment of plan when various aspects such as technical assessment, etc., were ready. DC would also be consulted in a timely manner on planning matters. To his understanding, the applicant still needed the lead time to prepare the documents required for the planning procedures.

60. Mr. LI Yiu-ban pointed out that the previous owner of the captioned site had piled up a massive soil fill there in the past, causing panic among nearby villagers who had also lodged complaints to

the TPDC. DC members had inspected the site multiple times and found that the soil fill was affecting nearby villagers, and the soil could even be dislodged and fell into the Lam Tsuen River. As such, he hoped that the PlanD and TPB would carefully review the situation during planning.

61. Mr. Feddy LEUNG responded that the department noted Members' comments and would relay them to relevant departments for follow-up. He added that the department would consult various government departments before submitting the rezoning application to the TPB.

**(3) Follow up on the resumption of the site of the auto-liquefied petroleum gas filling station on Kwong Chun Street, Tai Po**

62. The Chairman said that the PHWC had written to the Office of the Ombudsman ("Ombudsman"), complaining that the TPDC had not been consulted before the contract of the captioned liquefied petroleum gas ("LPG") filling station was renewed. He had received the reply and the investigation report from the Ombudsman earlier and reported as follows:

- (i) In order to brief the Ombudsman and supplement the background of the matter concerned, he and Mr. AU Chun-wah, the then DC Member, acted as the complainants of the case.
- (ii) The complaint was lodged against the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department ("EMSD") and Environmental Protection Department ("EPD"). According to the investigation report of the Ombudsman, as the inter-departmental task force ("task force") chaired by the EPD was responsible for reviewing the matter of the dedicated LPG filling station, the Ombudsman considered that the complaint against the EPD substantiated, whilst the complaint against the EMSD unsubstantiated.
- (iii) The Ombudsman recommended that the EPD drew on the experience in this case. When facing similar situations in future, the department should conduct proper consultation and explain to the affected parties the justifications for the Government to implement relevant policies / measures as well as listen to their views, so as to ensure transparency in the Government's governance.
- (iv) He was satisfied with the investigation results. He opined that the PHWC should write to the task force to express its dissatisfaction, reflecting that the practice of the task force had caused the TPDC to lose the opportunity of improving the traffic in the district, and urge the department to consult the DC on similar works or contract renewal matters in the future.
- (v) Members who wished to read the said investigation report might contact the Secretariat.

63. Members did not have any comments.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat issued the letter referred to in paragraph 62(iv) above on 14 December.)

**IX. Date of next meeting**

64. The next meeting would be scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on 17 January 2023 (Tuesday).

65. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:39 a.m.

Tai Po District Council Secretariat

December 2022