Minutes of the 1st Meeting in 2025 of the District Facilities and Works Committee of the Tai Po District Council

Date: 8 January 2025 (Wednesday)

Time: 9:30 a.m. - 11:07 a.m.

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

<u>Present</u>	Time of Arrival	Time of Withdrawal
Chairman		
Ms. WONG Pik-kiu, SBS, MH, JP	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
<u>Vice-chairman</u>		
Mr. LI Wah-kwong, Rex, MH	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Members		
Mr. YU Chi-wing, MH	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. LEE Man-kit	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. LI Yiu-ban, BBS, MH, JP	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. LAM Yick-kuen, MH	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. WU Cheuk-him	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. MUI Siu-fung	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. MUI Ching-hung	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. CHAN Tsz-kin	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. CHAN Cho-leung, MH, JP	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Ms. CHAN Kin-kwan	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. CHAN Siu-kuen, MH, JP	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. CHAN Pok-chi, JP	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. MAK Shing-ho, Gary	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. WAN Koon-kau	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. WONG Wai-tung	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Ms. LOK Siu-luen	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. LO Hiu-fung, MH	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. LEONG Chung-ming	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Ms. NG Bun-bun, Catherine	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting

Secretary

Miss CHAN Yin-ning, Elaine Beginning of the meeting End of the meeting

Executive Officer (District Council) 1 / Tai Po District Office ("TPDO") / Home Affairs Department ("HAD")

In Attendance

Mr. CHAU Chun-wing Chief Leisure Manager (New Territories East) / Leisure and Cultural

Services Department ("LCSD")

Mr. FUNG Hon-wa, Harris District Leisure Manager (Tai Po) / LCSD

Ms. CHAN Wing-yee, Pion Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Tai Po / LCSD

Ms. WONG Mei-lin, Rita Senior Executive Officer (Planning) 23 / LCSD

Ms. WONG Chit-hei, Heidi Executive Officer (Planning) 23 / LCSD

Senior Librarian (Tai Po) / LCSD Miss LEE Mei-yee, May

Mr. TUNG Wai-lam Administrative Assistant / Lands (Atg.) / District Lands Office, Tai

Po ("TPDLO") / Lands Department

Mr. LAM Chun-ting Senior Health Inspector (Cleansing & Pest Control) Tai Po 1 / Food

and Environmental Hygiene Department ("FEHD")

Mr. KU Kwok-pun Senior Engineer / Construction 3 / Water Supplies Department

("WSD")

Ms. TING Hok-lam Engineer / Construction 5 / WSD

Ms. LEUNG Shing-mei, Angela Architect (Works)1 / HAD Mr. WONG Wilson Architect (Works)10 / HAD

Mr. KWOK Chun-chai, Johnny Assistant District Officer (Tai Po) / HAD

Senior Executive Officer (District Council) (Designate) / TPDO / Ms. HUEN Lai-yan, Sara

HAD

Mr. LAU Chun-ming Inspector of Works (3) / TPDO / HAD Miss MAN Fung-yee, Stella Liaison Officer (7) / TPDO / HAD

Mr. KWOK Sze-lung Technical Director / Asia Infrastructure Solutions Limited ("AIS")

Mr. LO Shing-yui Senior Engineer / AIS

Opening remarks

The Chairman welcomed participants to the 1st meeting in 2025 of the District Facilities and Works Committee ("DFWC") and announced the following:

(i) Mr. KWOK Chun-chai, Johnny, Assistant District Officer (Tai Po), would attend future DFWC meetings in place of Miss YU Wing-lam, Phoebe.

- (ii) Mr. TUNG Wai-lam, Administrative Assistant / Lands (Atg.) of TPDLO was attending the meeting in place of Mr. TSUI Chun-sing.
- (iii) Ms. HUEN Lai-yan, Sara, Senior Executive Officer (District Council) (Designate) of TPDO, was in attendance of the meeting.

I. Confirmation of the minutes of the 6th meeting in 2024 of the DFWC on 6 November 2024

2. <u>The Chairman</u> reported that as the Secretariat did not receive any proposed amendments prior to the meeting, and no Members on the floor had put forward any amendments, the captioned minutes therefore were confirmed.

II. <u>Water Supplies Department — Works project no. 9377WF "Improvement of Water Supply to Northern New Territories"</u>

(TPDC Paper No. DFW 1/2025)

- 3. <u>The Chairman</u> welcomed Mr. KU Kwok-pun and Ms. TING Hok-lam, Senior Engineer / Construction 3 and Engineer / Construction 5 of WSD respectively, and Messrs. KWOK Sze-lung and LO Shing-yui, Technical Director and Senior Engineer of AIS respectively, to attend the meeting for this agenda item.
- 4. The representative of WSD went through the captioned paper.
- 5. Members' questions and comments were as follows:
 - (i) They asked the department about the reasons for not constructing a new water treatment works ("WTW") in North District, and whether the captioned works project would affect the water supply in Tai Po District.
 - (ii) They would like to know about the details of the works project, such as traffic arrangements, schedules for the expansion of WTW and laying of fresh water mains ("FWMs"), as well as whether FWMs would all be laid underground and the works would affect the landscape and ecology in Upper Lam Tsuen River.
 - (iii) Since the road surface of Tai Wo Service Road East was narrow, they were worried that the works would cause traffic congestion.
 - (iv) They asked about the materials used in FWMs.
 - (v) The five-year construction period was too long, and they hoped that the department would expedite the completion of the works project.
 - (vi) They suggested constructing a new WTW in North District to optimise the ancillary

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facilities in the Northern Metropolis ("NM").

6. The representative of WSD responded as follows:

- (i) Due to land constraints, the department considered that Sheung Shui WTW could not be expanded upon examination. As such, it was suggested that FWMs be laid in North District and Tai Po District as well as the water supply networks of Sheung Shui WTW and Tai Po WTW be integrated, so as to regulate water supply capacity in a flexible and efficient manner to meet the fresh water ("FW") demand. The department would continue to examine the development in the NM and study the construction of an additional WTW in the North District in due course.
- (ii) As the works carried out in Fanling involved quite many busy roads, coupled with the estimated large number of underground utilities in the industrial area of Fanling, the construction period was preliminarily estimated to be five years and the department would expedite the completion of the works as far as practicable. FWMs to be laid in Tai Po District would be laid underground under feasible circumstances so as to minimise the impact on the landscape as far as possible.
- (iii) The laying of FWMs in Tai Po District would have minimal traffic impact on Tai Po Road and Tolo Highway, where trenchless excavation method would be adopted to carry out the works underground at the Tolo Highway section and the works at Tai Po Road (Tai Wo section) would not affect the nearby carriageways. The Civil Engineering and Development Department was in the course of carrying out works at Tai Wo Service Road East (including the Fanling Bypass) where the WSD would lay FWMs in phases.
- (iv) FWMs used were mainly steel pipes lined with anti-rust coating, which normally had a longer service life. The department would inspect the water mains condition, and maintenance and rehabilitation works would be carried out in a timely manner. Dedicated officers would also inspect water mains for seepage and leakage on an on-going basis.

- (i) As Tai Po WTW would not be able to meet the FW demand in North District in the long run, it was suggested that a WTW be constructed in North District.
- (ii) They asked about the construction period of the mainlaying works in Tai Po District and the time when the traffic in the vicinity would be affected.
- (iii) As different departments were carrying out excavation works consecutively at Tai Wo Service Road East, it was suggested that there should be coordination among departments to minimise the impact of road closure on the residents.

- (iv) It was suggested that the department consult the residents and Rural Committees ("RCs") on works projects involving rural areas.
- (v) It was suggested that the department study whether the road between Mui Shue Hang Playground and Lam Tsuen could be connected under this works project.

8. The representative of WSD responded as follows:

- (i) The FW transferred by Tai Po WTW was mainly supplied to a 500 000 population in the NM, while the remaining population would be supplied with FW by the expanded Ngau Tam Mei WTW. The department would review the FW supply in the New Territories North and New Territories South from time to time for flexible distribution with a view to utilising FW resources more effectively, as well as studying the construction of a WTW in the North District in due course.
- (ii) The department had yet to carry out tender invitation in respect of the works project, and would draw on the construction experience in Tai Po District that discussions would be held with the contractor upon engagement, so as to shorten the construction period of works in Tai Po District as far as possible and minimise the impact on the residents.
- (iii) Upon engagement, the contractor would consult the Rural Representatives and RCs to give a detailed introduction of the works project and implementation of mitigation options.
- (iv) The project budget was insufficient for road extension.

- (i) As delays often occurred in the mainlaying works, they would like to know the buffer time set aside by the department for the works, and asked whether the alignment or capacity of FWMs laid had to be re-evaluated in response to district developments in the future.
- (ii) As it was unreasonable for the WTW in Tai Po District to supply water to North District, coupled with the fact that the development on the land with laid water mains and in the vicinity would be frozen, they considered that it would be more cost-effective to shorten the length of the proposed water mains to be laid in the district and to construct an additional WTW in North District.
- 10. <u>The Chairman</u> concluded that the DFWC supported in principle Works Project No. 9377WF "Improvement of Water Supply to Northern New Territories", but she asked the departmental representatives to reflect Members' comments to the department and re-consult RCs upon engagement of the contractor.

III. <u>Leisure and Cultural Services Department — Report on the management of facilities in Tai Po District</u>

(TPDC Paper No. DFW 2/2025)

11. The representative of LCSD reported as follows:

- (i) The utilisation of recreation and sports facilities in Tai Po District from October to November 2024 was enumerated in Annex I to the captioned paper for Members' reference.
- (ii) The locations of the greening works and enhancement of leisure facilities were enumerated in Annexes II and III to the captioned paper respectively for Members' reference.
- (iii) Regarding "TP-DMW241 Provision of a sitting-out area at San Wa On Lane, Tai Po Tau, Tai Po", the department indicated that it had received comments from the indigenous inhabitant representatives of Tai Po Tau that the site was not recommended to be opened as an inclusive venue for pets. The department would put up notices at appropriate locations to the effect of no pets allowed after the opening of the venue.

- (i) It was hoped that the department would plant more durable plants in the roadside planters along Lam Kam Road.
- (ii) The utilisation rate of Tai Po Sports Ground ("TPSG") reached 100% from October to November 2024, together with insufficient venue lighting, football matches could only be held in daytime, making it impossible for Tai Po Football Club ("TPFC") to book the venue for trainings. It was suggested that the department study an increase in available time slots of the football pitch and carry out refurbishment of Kwong Fuk Football Ground ("KFFG") as soon as possible.
- (iii) They asked the department to provide the work schedule of the horticultural maintenance contractor so that Members could jointly monitor the performance.
- (iv) It was suggested that the department set out the schedule for the upcoming works in future meeting papers.
- (v) As KFFG was in a state of serious wear and tear, they would like to know the schedule for the enhancement works as well as when would refurbishment be carried out.
- (vi) They asked about the works progress of the Football-cum-Rugby Pitch with Public Vehicle Park in Area 33, Tai Po.

- (vii) It was hoped that the department would provide a utilisation report of 5-a-side soccer pitches in the district.
- (viii) They asked about the progress of the feasibility study on the retrofitting of airconditioning systems at Fu Shin Sports Centre ("FSSC").
- (ix) They asked about the funding progress and proposed facilities for the sports centre project at Ma Wo Road.
- (x) The problem of overgrown weeds in the district was serious, which required regular maintenance and enhanced supervision. They asked the departments to strengthen cooperation on the removal of weeds.
- (xi) They asked the department to follow up on the problem of overgrown weeds at the central median between Symphony Bay Villa Concerto and Villa Rhapsody.
- (xii) They asked about the progress of "TP-DMW295 Provision of a sitting-out area at Pak Shek Kok".
- (xiii) They asked the department to step up cleansing and maintenance of park facilities or sitting-out areas.
- (xiv) They asked whether the refurbishment of Toilet No. 6 at Tai Po Waterfront Park ("TPWP") could be completed in advance.
- (xv) It was hoped that the department would rectify the problem of insufficient power supply at the outdoor football pitch of Tung Cheong Street Sports Centre ("TCSSC").
- (xvi) It was suggested that the department prune the Red Kapok Trees earlier before the bursting of fluffy cotton.
- (xvii) It was suggested that the department study with the power company for increasing the power supply to its venues.

13. The representative of LCSD responded as follows:

- (i) The department would plant more durable and water-tolerant flowers in the roadside planters along Lam Kam Road as far as possible.
- (ii) As matches in the Hong Kong Premier League ("HKPL") took place at TPSG from October to November 2024, the utilisation rate thereat was high. According to the departmental guidelines, to maintain the quality of the turf, only a limited number of sessions were available for venue booking by groups or members of the public during the HKPL season. As the natural turf pitch at TPSG was more popular, the department, upon receipt of venue bookings, would coordinate with the TPFC to discuss conducting some of the trainings in the artificial turf pitches in Tai Po District, including Kwong Fuk Park Football Pitch and KFFG.

- (iii) The department was aware of the poor condition of KFFG and had carried out repair works there in late October last year. The department was working with the Architectural Services Department ("ArchSD") on the timetable for the refurbishment works, and the ArchSD would work on the design in the first half of 2025. As the amount of money involved in the project was huge and it took time to invite tenders, the department would discuss with the ArchSD on whether the tendering procedures could be shortened so as to commence the works earlier; and Members would be informed of any updates once available.
- (iv) Horticultural maintenance services were far from satisfactory from October to November 2024. In view of the expiry of the horticultural maintenance contract, the department had engaged a new contractor in the hope of enhancing horticulture quality. The department could also provide the work schedule of the contractor.
- (v) The department would consider incorporating the finalised works schedule into the meeting papers.
- (vi) The department would continue to study with the Housing Department the power supply situation at FSSC to see if an air-conditioning system could be installed, and Members would be informed of the progress if any.
- (vii) The department would remind the cleansing contractors to step up cleansing of parks and sitting-out areas before the Lunar New Year holidays to keep all venues and facilities clean.
- (viii) The works department said that the refurbishment of Toilet No. 6 at TPWP would be completed in mid-May this year, and the toilet would be opened for public use as soon as reasonably practicable.
- (ix) The department maintained liaison with different departments on the problem of overgrown weeds in the district, and would inform and refer the cases to the departments concerned forthwith for action if the places that required removal of weeds were not under its purview.
- (x) He would find out the power supply condition at the outdoor football pitch of TCSSC (i.e. Plover Cove Road Mini-Soccer Pitch) from the works department, as well as check with the CLP Power Hong Kong Limited on whether the electricity load could be increased.
- (xi) The Transport Department ("TD") and LCSD had consulted the DFWC on the proposed facilities and conceptual design of the works project of "Football-cum-Rugby Pitch with Public Vehicle Park in Area 33, Tai Po" on 4 September 2024, and would consider and incorporate Members' views as far as possible to further enhance the conceptual design of the project. The Government was continuously reviewing the design and priorities of the projects under planning and would properly adjust the progress of implementation.

- (xii) Regarding the works project of "Sports Centre, Social Welfare Facilities and Public Vehicle Park in Area 6, Tai Po", the Chief Executive had mapped out a 10-year development blueprint for sports and recreation facilities in the 2022 Policy Address to provide about 30 facilities by phases, with a view to providing quality and diversified sports and recreation facilities to the public continuously. "Sports Centre, Social Welfare Facilities and Public Vehicle Park in Area 6, Tai Po" was one of the 16 sports and recreation projects planned to be launched for implementation in the first five years. The LCSD, Social Welfare Department and TD consulted the District Facilities Management and Culture, Recreation and Sports Committee ("DFMC") about the amendments to the proposed facilities of the project on 13 May 2022 and obtained support from the DFMC. The Government was continuously reviewing the priorities of the works projects under planning and would properly adjust the progress of implementation.
- (xiii) The road widening works carried out by the Highways Department ("HyD") next to the site of Works No. TP-DMW295 were originally expected to be completed this year, but had yet to commence at the end of last year. The Works Section of HAD would maintain close liaison with the HyD to see how the works could be interfaced. It was expected that tender invitation and funding approval for the works would be carried out this year, and Members would be informed of the progress, if any. In addition, after the site visit on 2 August 2024, Members proposed that the opening hours of the sitting-out area should be set. The department had taken note of the comments and would review the arrangement upon completion of the venue.

(<u>Post-meeting note</u>: There were currently a total of three LCSD venues in Tai Po District equipped with 5-a-side hard-surface football pitches, namely Fung Yuen Playground, Wan Tau Kok Playground and Plover Cove Road Mini-Soccer Pitch. As the said outdoor venues were open for public use free of charge, the department did not have relevant records and thus could not provide the utilisation report.)

- 14. A Member suggested that the road widening works of HyD and the tendering procedures of Works No. TP-DMW295 be proceeded in parallel to expedite the works progress.
- 15. <u>The Chairman</u> commended the department for the planting of Purple Tabebuia on the slope outside The Golden Gate and suggested that more plants be planted to beautify the environment in the district.

IV. <u>Minor works items of Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in Tai Po District</u> (TPDC Paper No. DFW 3/2025)

16. The representative of FEHD went through the captioned paper.

- 17. Members' questions and comments were as follows:
 - (i) They asked when the department would provide the layout plan of the public toilet ("PT") at Wai Ha Village.
 - (ii) They hoped to conduct a site visit with the department on the refurbishment of Lin Au PT.
 - (iii) They asked about the works progress of Tai Po Tau Village North PT.

18. <u>The representative of FEHD</u> responded as follows:

- (i) The working group set up by the FEHD and ArchSD would vet the design of the PT project at Wai Ha Village on 25 February 2025. Upon vetting, information such as the relevant papers and estimated time for commencement of the works would be submitted for consultation with Members.
- (ii) The facelifting of Lin Au PT was currently at the preliminary design stage and the department would arrange for a site visit with Members in due course.
- (iii) The refurbishment of Tai Po Tau Village North PT would be conducted using the Modular Integrated Construction approach. The project was currently at the stage of funding application and Members would be informed of the progress if any in a timely manner.
- 19. <u>The Chairman</u> found out earlier that sewage was discharged from the drainage channel underneath "YATA the Footbridge" to Lam Tsuen River. As the preliminary estimation of the Drainage Services Department ("DSD") was that it might be sewage from street washing at Four Lanes, Tai Po by the FEHD, she thus suggested that the DSD investigate with the FEHD. In addition, she asked whether the FEHD had measures to prevent such incidents from happening.

(<u>Post-meeting note</u>: To keep the streets in the district clean, the FEHD would provide street washing services, and the water generated from street washing was similar to the stormwater flowing through the streets when it rained, which would not cause pollution. In addition, the FEHD would also remove the sediments and refuse in street gullies regularly to reduce the discharge of pollutants into underground stormwater drains.)

V. Any other business

- (i) The facilities of quite many community halls ("CHs") were broken and out of service, such as tables in Kwong Fuk CH and the projector in Fu Shin CH, causing much inconvenience when organising activities. It was hoped that the TPDO would deal with the matters as soon as possible and carry out regular maintenance and repairs.
- (ii) They asked about the reasons for not including the position of TPDO District Minor Works ("DMW") Projects in the agenda of this meeting.
- (iii) It was suggested that the TPDO collect information on CH facilities that needed to be repaired from Members after the meeting.
- (iv) It was suggested that the TPDO consider whether the supplies to be procured matched the demand of the venue during procurement.
- (v) Due to the high utilisation rates of CHs, facilities were prone to be damaged after repairs, such as the LED screen on the external wall of Tung Cheong Street CH. It was suggested that the TPDO step up liaison with the works department to follow up on the matter.
- (vi) They asked whether the LED screen on the external wall of Tai Po Community Centre ("CC") had been broken and how the District Council could use the facilities.

21. The representative of TPDO responded as follows:

- (i) The department had changed to report on the position of DMW projects on a half-yearly basis.
- (ii) The suggestions and comments on CH/CC facilities would be referred to the relevant section of TPDO for follow-up.
- (iii) The LED screen on the external wall of Tai Po CC had been broken and the Electrical & Mechanical Services Department would be responsible for the repair. The TPDO would garner Members' views and consider the arrangements for handling the LED screen in due course.

(<u>Post-meeting note</u>: The TPDO was following up on the repair of projector in Fu Shin CH with the departments concerned, and would provide a portable projector for use by venue users during the maintenance period. The TPDO would also procure new tables and chairs for CHs and CCs in the district progressively to replace the broken ones.

Members or venue users who wished to give their views on CH/CC facilities were welcome to reflect their views to the on-site staff or CH/CC Section of TPDO at any time. The TPDO would continue to keep in view the usage of facilities in CHs/CCs (including the LED screen in the Multipurpose Hall of Tung Cheong Street CH) and actively liaise and follow up with the departments concerned.)

VI. Date of next meeting

- 22. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at 9:30 a.m. on 5 March 2025 (Wednesday).
- 23. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

Tai Po District Council Secretariat February 2025