

Minutes of the 1st Meeting in 2024 of Tai Po District Council

Date: 5 January 2024 (Friday)

Time: 9:44 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.

Venue: Conference Room, Tai Po District Council

Present

Chairman

Ms. CHAN Hau-man, Eunice, JP

Time of Arrival

Beginning of the meeting

Time of Withdrawal

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

Ms. LEE Sai-yin, Jeanne, BBS, JP

Beginning of the meeting

End of the meeting

Mr. LI Wah-kwong, Rex, MH

Beginning of the meeting

End of the meeting

Mr. LEE Hon-cheung

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

Mr. CHAN Yung-wa

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. WONG Pik-kiu, BBS, MH, JP

Beginning of the meeting

End of the meeting

Ms. LOK Siu-luen

Beginning of the meeting

End of the meeting

Mr. LO Hiu-fung

Beginning of the meeting

End of the meeting

Secretary

Ms. SING Hoi-shan, Wendy

Beginning of the meeting

End of the meeting

Senior Executive Officer (District Council),

Tai Po District Office, Home Affairs Department

In Attendance

Mr. MA Wai-hing, Adrian	District Commander (Tai Po), Hong Kong Police Force
Ms. FUNG Man-yu, May	District Social Welfare Officer (Tai Po/North), Social Welfare Department
Mr. CHAU Chun-wing	Chief Leisure Manager (New Territories East), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr. CHU Ka-chun, Gordon	District Leisure Manager(Tai Po), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms. WONG Yee-fang, Eva	Chief Transport Officer/New Territories East, Transport Department
Ms. CHAN Hau-yin, Margaret	District Planning Officer/Shia Tin, Tai Po and North, Planning Department
Mr. CHO Wai-hung, Mike	Chief Engineer / N3, Civil Engineering and Development Department
Mr. LAM Chi-ming, Kempis	District Lands Officer/TP (District Land Office, Tai Po), Lands Department
Mr. TSUI Chun-sing	Administrative Assistant/Lands (District Lands Office, Tai Po), Lands Department
Mr. SHUM Ka-wai	Senior Housing Manager/TNS12, Housing Department
Mr. MA Hing-sum, Patrick	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Tai Po), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr. TSANG Chin-kan	Senior Health Inspector (Cleansing & Pest Control)2, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Ms. WONG Mei-yin	Chief School Development Officer(Tai Po), Education Bureau
Miss HO Chun-man, Valerie	Senior Fisheries Officer (Enforcement) (Atg.), Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
Dr. LING Ka-ho, Joe	Agricultural Officer (Agricultural Extension), Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
Miss YU Wing-lam, Phoebe	Assistant District Officer (Tai Po), Home Affairs Department
Miss CHAN Sui-king, Madeline	Senior Executive Officer (District Management), Tai Po District Office, Home Affairs Department
Mr. LUI Kan-man, Raymond	Senior Liaison Officer(1), Tai Po District Office, Home Affairs Department
Ms. WONG Sze-man, Queenie	Senior Liaison Officer(2), Tai Po District Office, Home Affairs Department
Mr. CHOW Tsz-yan, Daniel	Executive Officer (District Council), Tai Po District Office, Home Affairs Department

I. The Chairman's welcome speech and appointment of the Secretary of Tai Po District Council

The Chairman welcomed District Council Members ("Members") to the first meeting of the 7th term of Tai Po District Council ("TPDC"), and invited the participants to take a group photograph.

2. The Chairman announced that under Section 69(1) of the District Councils Ordinance (Cap. 547), the Chairman of the District Council ("DC") could appoint a public officer to act as the Secretary of the DC to carry out the functions of the DC. For the 7th TPDC (2024-2027), the staff member who for the time being held, or might from time to time hold, the office of Senior Executive Officer (District Council) of the Tai Po

District Office (“TPDO”) was appointed as the Secretary of the TPDC.

3. The Chairman welcomed other representatives of government departments to this meeting, who would attend meetings of the DC or its committees in the capacity of representatives of core departments (i.e. departments with frequent attendance), including:

- (i) Mr. MA Wai-hing, Adrian, District Commander (Tai Po), Hong Kong Police Force;
- (ii) Ms. FUNG Man-yu, May, District Social Welfare Officer (Tai Po/North), Social Welfare Department (“SWD”);
- (iii) Mr. CHAU Chun-wing, Chief Leisure Manager (New Territories East) and Mr. CHU Ka-chun, Gordon, District Leisure Manager (Tai Po) of Leisure and Cultural Services Department (“LCSD”);
- (iv) Ms. WONG Yee-fang, Eva, Chief Transport Officer/New Territories East, Transport Department (“TD”);
- (v) Ms. CHAN Hau-yin, Margaret, District Planning Officer/Shia Tin, Tai Po and North, Planning Department (“PlanD”);
- (vi) Mr. CHO Wai-hung, Mike, Chief Engineer/N3, Civil Engineering and Development Department (“CEDD”);
- (vii) Mr. LAM Chi-ming, Kempis, District Lands Officer/TP (District Land Office, Tai Po), Lands Department (“LandsD”);
- (viii) Mr. SHUM Ka-wai, Senior Housing Manager/TNS12, Housing Department (“HD”);
- (ix) Mr. MA Hing-sum, Patrick, District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Tai Po), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (“FEHD”);
- (x) Ms. WONG Mei-yin, Chief School Development Officer (Tai Po), Education Bureau (“EDB”);
- (xi) Miss HO Chun-man, Valerie, Senior Fisheries Officer (Enforcement) (Atg.), Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (“AFCD”); and
- (xii) Miss YU Wing-lam, Phoebe, Assistant District Officer, Miss CHAN Sui-king, Madeline, Senior Executive Officer (District Management), Mr. LUI Kan-man, Raymond, Senior Liaison Officer (1) and Ms. WONG Sze-man, Queenie, Senior Liaison Officer (2), TPDO.

II. Personal Interest Registration and Declaration of Members

4. The Chairman indicated that the Government had already uploaded the “Performance Monitoring Guidelines for Members of District Councils” (“Guidelines”) and “District Council Standing Orders” (“Standing Orders”) to the DC Members’ Reference Corner of the website of the Home Affairs Department (“HAD”) to facilitate Members’ access. She reminded Members to pay attention to and observe Sections 14 to 24 of the Standing Orders which were regulations related to registration and declaration of interests. Registration forms on Members’ interests would be uploaded to the DC’s website for public inspection. She

asked Members to return the completed Registration Form on Personal Interests (Appendix 3 to the Standing Orders) to the DC Secretariat on or before 22 January. Interests required to be registered included but not limited to:

- (i) All salaries, remuneration and allowances received;
- (ii) A beneficial interest in shares of companies or other bodies held by a Member himself or with or on behalf of his spouse or minor children;
- (iii) Financial sponsorships from any persons or bodies received by a Member himself or his spouse;
- (iv) Land or property directly or indirectly owned in Hong Kong;
- (v) A fee, honorarium, allowance or other material benefit etc. received from a client for the personal service provided to the client concerned.

5. The Chairman said that a Member must notify the Secretary immediately and return the documents concerned to the Secretariat if he found he had direct personal interests or pecuniary interests in matters being discussed at meetings. The Chairman would then decide whether or not the Member concerned could speak or take part in voting at the meeting. In case of doubt, personnel of the Secretariat would explain in detail how to fill out the Registration Form on Interests after the meeting.

III. Committees and Working Groups under the 7th TPDC **(TPDC Paper No. 1/2024)**

6. The Chairman advised that the 7th TPDC would set up five committees and one working group, namely, District Facilities and Works Committee (“DFWC”), Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee (“FEHC”), Community Involvement, Culture and Recreation Committee (“CCRC”), Traffic and Transport Committee (“TTC”), Social Welfare, Housing and Development Planning Committee (“SHDC”) and Working Group on Boosting Local Economy (“Working Group”). Terms of reference of the committees and working group could be found in Annexes 1 to 6 to the paper. The committees had a four-year term till 31 December 2027, while the term of office of committee chairmen and vice-chairmen was two years. The Working Group had a 12-month term tentatively which would end on 31 December 2024 and the term of office of its chairman was consistent with that of the Working Group, i.e., till 31 December 2024.

Chairmen and Vice-chairmen of committees and the Working Group were as follows:

	<u>Chairman</u>	<u>Vice-chairman</u>
District Facilities and Works Committee	Ms. WONG Pik-kiu	Mr. LI Wah-kwong, Rex
Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee	Mr. CHAN Siu-kuen	Mr. YU Chi-wing

Community Involvement, Culture and Recreation Committee	Mr. CHAN Cho-leung	Ms. LEE Sai-yin, Jeanne
Traffic and Transport Committee	Mr. LI Yiu-ban	Mr. MUI Siu-fung
Social Welfare, Housing and Development Planning Committee	Mr. LO Hiu-fung	Mr. WU Cheuk-him
Working Group on Boosting Local Economy	Mr. LAM Yick-kuen	/

7. The Chairman indicated that the member lists of the committees and the working group were contained in Annex 7 to the captioned paper for Members' reference. She asked Members to gauge views from the public on livelihood matters in various areas of the community to make improvements through the DC.

(Post-meeting note: After the meeting, Mr. CHAN Cho-leung had indicated that he would like to join DFWC, while Ms. LEE Sai-yin, Jeanne and Ms. LOK Siu-luen would like to join the Working Group. The Chairman had already given her consent to the said Members' joining the committee and working group concerned.)

IV. Meeting timetables of TPDC and its Committees in 2024

(TPDC Paper No. 2/2024)

8. The Chairman said that full council meetings of TPDC were scheduled for the first Tuesday working day of the odd months. Meetings of the five committees under TPDC would in general be held within two weeks after the full council meeting whereas meetings of the working group would be scheduled on an as-needed basis. Meeting timetables of TPDC and its Committees in 2024 were contained in the Annex to the captioned paper. She reminded Members that the annual attendance rate of a member at meetings of the DC or its committees/working groups should not be lower than 80%. A DC member was obliged to attend meetings punctually and avoid leaving while the meeting was being conducted.

9. The Secretary advised that the Notification of Absence from Meetings was contained in Appendix 4 to the Standing Orders. If a DC Member could not attend a meeting of the DC on grounds of sickness, maternity, paternity, fulfilment of civic responsibilities required by the law, serious illness or injury, attendance of meetings/activities held by the Legislative Council or advisory bodies/organisations appointed by the country/the Government, attendance at another meeting or an activity on behalf of the DC etc., he was required to submit an application to the DC Secretariat in writing before the meeting. The Chairman would decide at the meeting whether or not to give consent to the application. If the application for absence was approved, the meeting that the DC member was absent would not be counted. Besides, pursuant to Order 95 of the Standing Orders, a DC Member was required to give prior notification, in writing, to the DC Secretary if he left Hong Kong for more than 48 hours. She said that Secretariat personnel would explain to Members in detail the arrangements of notifications of absence from meetings and absence from Hong Kong after the meeting.

V. Meet the Public Scheme
(TPDC Paper No. 3/2024)

10. The Chairman indicated that in order to facilitate Members' thorough understanding of the opinions of the public and the problems they faced through direct contact with residents in the district, and to handle or refer their complaints or requests for assistance, Members were required pursuant to Section 18(1) of the Guidelines to participate in the Meet the Public Scheme (held weekly) and be on duty at the DC office. The duty rosters for 2024 were contained in the Annex to the captioned paper. A DC Member might swap his duty days with other DC Members under the coordination of the DC Secretariat as necessary. Reservation was not required for the scheme concerned. In the event a member of the public called the Secretariat to request a meeting with a DC Member, the Secretariat would notify the Member concerned as quickly as practicable. She reminded Members to come to the DC office with their assistants when being on duty, and to record clearly the details of cases being handled or referred while meeting the public so that the cases could be included in the work report.

VI. Study of topics of concern in the district and collection of views from members of the public
(TPDC Paper No. 4/2024)

11. The Chairman said that it was the function of the DC to collect the views of the people in the District in respect of district affairs and topics, and to submit to the Government the suggested corresponding measures. To prepare for discussion of work priorities in Tai Po District at DC meetings in the upcoming years, Members were required to study topics of concern in the district and collect opinions from members of the public for discussion at DC meetings. Members had put forward views at the preparation meeting on 20 December 2023. The following topic was selected after discussion and taking into consideration the situation of Tai Po District and the degree of public concern:

- To tie in with the project to provide a carriageway on Kwong Fuk Bridge, what suggestions members of the public had regarding the improvement of the pavement on and facilities along the banks on both sides of Lam Tsuen River?

12. Mr. WU Cheuk-him enquired if there was any deadline for collection of views from members of the public.

13. Mr. MUI Siu-fung asked if the DC would produce promotional items such as banners to publicise the programme concerned.

14. Mr. CHAN Cho-leung recommended that lighting decorations be provided on a long-term basis on both sides of Lam Tsuen River to create a check-in landmark and boost local economy.

15. Ms. WONG Pik-kiu suggested that Members seek help from trade associations, owners' corporations ("OCs") and District Services & Community Care Teams ("Care Teams") in the district when collecting

opinions from members of the public. In addition, she reflected that there had been opposition to the provision of carriageway from residents near Kwong Fuk Bridge.

16. Ms. CHAN Kin-kwan enquired if the Secretariat would provide questionnaires or information to Members to facilitate Members' collection of opinions from the public.

17. Ms. LOK Siu-luen suggested that suggestion boxes be provided at private buildings in the district to collect more opinions such that the opinions could be more representative.

18. Mr. LO Hiu-fung indicated that collection of samples had to be extensive and even, and therefore recommended that the questionnaires be standardised and opinions be collected from members of the public at various spots in the district via different ways, so as to avoid getting biased and unrepresentative results. Besides, the DC had had discussion in connection with the carriageway on Kwong Fuk Bridge in the past, he enquired how the matter would be handled should the result of the public opinions collected this time differ from that of the past or the planning direction of the Government.

19. Mr. CHAN Siu-kuen said that the DC had in the past discussed and carried out consultation on the carriageway on Kwong Fuk Bridge, which had received extensive support but could not be materialised. He believed that the provision of carriageway on Kwong Fuk Bridge would be conducive to alleviating traffic congestion on Po Heung Bridge. He agreed that detailed consultation should be carried out and the project concerned should be materialised as soon as possible.

20. Mr. LEE Man-kit recommended that talks be held to elaborate the arrangement in detail and to collect opinions from different stakeholders.

21. Mr. CHAN Pok-chi suggested that consideration be given to collect opinions from members of the public through various channels, including online and offline, while TVs in lift lobbies of housing estates could also be used for publicity purposes. Besides, he agreed that questions for collecting views should be standardised.

22. Mr. YU Chi-wing said that the provision of carriageway on Kwong Fuk Bridge would help rescue vehicles carry out rescue work more speedily. In the public interest, it was still necessary to provide a carriageway on Kwong Fuk Bridge for public safety.

23. Mr. WAN Koon-kau said that economy had in the past flourished in the vicinity of Kwong Fuk Bridge. He believed that economic benefits in the district could be enhanced if a carriageway could be provided on Kwong Fuk Bridge, coupled with the proposal to improve the banks on both sides of Lam Tsuen River (such as setting up small stalls).

24. Mr. MAK Shing-ho, Gary said that the DC, Tai Po South Area Committee and Tai Po North Area Committee ("ACs") had all discussed and carried out consultation in connection with the carriageway on

Kwong Fuk Bridge. He recommended that background information (such as different options, location to build the carriageway etc.) be furnished when collecting views this time, so that questions could be more specific. In addition, he wished to know the progress of the project concerned, for instances, whether or not TD was carrying out a feasibility study or if further collection of views was required, while the improvement proposal of the banks on both sides of Lam Tsuen River was a new topic for which members of the public would need more time to consider in order to put forward opinions.

25. Mr. WONG Wai-tung indicated that to facilitate communication between Members and the public, he hoped that traffic data on Po Heung Bridge and details of previous discussions which DC and ACs had carried out could be furnished. Besides, he wished to know if the Government had any preliminary development direction for the banks of Lam Tsuen River, for instances, an open space for residents or a tourist attraction etc. so as to facilitate Members' collection of opinions.

26. Mr. LI Yiu-ban said that as a motorist himself, he considered it necessary to provide a carriageway. If suggestion boxes were provided only in residential buildings, the base of members of the public would be bigger than the one of motorists, whereby making the topic likely to end up having discussion without decision. He opined that different stakeholders would have different opinions and the way opinions were collected would have a rather big impact on the data. Hence, the matter should be given consideration from various aspects and handled carefully. He recommended that a consultancy firm be engaged to study how the problem of traffic congestion in Tai Po could be solved, for instance, some routes of public light buses could go to Lam Tsuen directly without running via Tai Po Centre, which could not only solve the problem of traffic congestion, but also alleviate air pollution.

27. Ms. LEE Sai-yin, Jeanne strongly agreed that a carriageway should be provided on Kwong Fuk Bridge. She was of the view that Members should clearly state the pros and cons of the project when collecting opinions from the public, whereas the consultation period should be of an appropriate length without being too long or too short.

28. Mr. CHAN Tsz-kin suggested that leisure and fitness facilities on the banks of both sides of Lam Tsuen River be increased.

29. Mr. CHAN Yung-wa recommended that young people be invited to draw the Lam Tsuen River in their mind to serve as a reference for development of Lam Tsuen River.

30. Mr. LEE Hon-cheung suggested that publicity elements be included in the process of opinion collection, such as furnishing concrete background information, statistics and advantages etc., so that opinions collected would have a clear direction, which would be conducive to the project's development.

31. The Chairman responded as follows:

- (i) Collection of public opinions this time aimed to gain a grasp on public suggestions in

connection with the carriageway on Kwong Fuk Bridge and improvement of facilities along the banks of Lam Tsuen River, such that the improvement options to be implemented in the future could meet public needs better. When contacting members of the public or groups, Members should achieve the goal of relaying people's opinions to the administration.

- (ii) It would not be appropriate for the consultation period to be too long or too short, while Members would need ample time to collect opinions so as to gain a comprehensive grasp on the pulse of the district. She considered it more appropriate to have three to six months for collecting opinions.
- (iii) The project to provide a carriageway on Kwong Fuk Bridge had been discussed in the district for some time. The Secretariat would assist in consolidating the basic background information and discussion details of the DC or ACs in connection with relevant topics. To help Members gain a grasp on relevant topics, the Secretariat could also contact TD to give a briefing to explain to Members the department's considerations and the impact brought forth by different alignment options and so on.
- (iv) She hoped that networking power of Members (for example, contacting groups in the district such as OCs, trade associations and Care Teams) could be made use of to collect opinions from Tai Po residents extensively.
- (v) Members should collect opinions through different approaches, including qualitative ones (such as questionnaires) and quantitative ones (for example, organising talks). Quantity was not the only factor for opinions to be included for consideration.

32. Mr. LI Yiu-ban said that Members had not raised any opposition in the past during DC discussion in connection with the provision of a carriageway on Kwong Fuk Bridge. The reason for the topic's being deferred for years was that all options put forward by Highways Department ("HyD") had been undesirable. He recommended that HyD be invited to attend meetings to explain to Members details of previous options and the reasons for the project's dragging on for years.

33. The Chairman indicated that to facilitate Members' better understanding of the project's background and latest development, she recommended that arrangement be made for TD to brief Members on the latest proposal of the project and the considerations for different alignment options. In addition, she also wished to gauge views from members of the public on the improvement proposal of facilities on the banks of Lam Tsuen River, and asked Members to collect and consolidate public opinions by using their own networks in the next three months for the DC to discuss and consider further. The Secretariat would consolidate the background information and arrange for TD to give an internal briefing as soon as practicable.

(Post-meeting note: TD and HyD had held an internal briefing in connection with the project to provide a carriageway on Kwong Fuk Bridge on 26 January 2024 to explain to Members the latest progress of the project.)

VII. Before the Chinese New Year, concrete suggestions for (a) launching Care Action in 18 Districts with the Care Teams; and (b) conducting Year End Cleaning Activities in the district with Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

(TPDC Paper No. 5/2024)

(a) Launching Care Action in 18 Districts with the Care Teams

34. The Chairman indicated that at the preparation meeting on 20 December 2023, she had encouraged Members to work together with the Care Teams to help and care for the needy people. Members had already started to reach out to the community to serve the grassroots and the needy, and to offer appropriate assistance. The Care Action would be carried out in five ways, including visits to temporary cold shelters of District Offices to provide assistance to needy people, visiting elderly singletons, grassroots and people living in sub-divided units etc. to hand out supplies, visiting low-income families to help carry out simple household repairs and cleaning, assisting in cleaning common areas in three-nil buildings, arranging New Year's Eve dinner and New Year poon choi feast etc. for disadvantaged groups in the district. She asked Members to keep facilitating and promoting the Care Action actively.

35. Mr. MUI Siu-fung said that he would organise with Mr. MUI Ching-hung and Ms. WONG Pik-kiu the activity "Winter Afternoon Tea" in Kwong Fuk Estate on 19 January for the elderly and residents in the district, and invited Members to participate.

36. Ms. WONG Pik-kiu said that she was frequently in touch with the elderly singletons and people living in sub-divided units, Members could contact her for target lists should they have suitable activities. Besides, as there were numerous units in public housing estates, Members could contact HD or work together with Care Teams should they wish to visit tenants in public housing estates, while she could also help with matching. As regards people living in sub-divided units, she hoped that New Year poon choi feast could be organised for them.

37. Mr. MAK Shing-ho, Gary said that Municipal Solid Waste Charging ("MSW Charging") would be implemented on 1 April 2024, he recommended that publicity of MSW Charging be combined with warmth-bringing and cleaning activities when reaching out to the public during door-to-door visits so as to help them adapt to the new arrangement of MSW Charging in time.

38. The Chairman indicated that it was the goal of the Care Action that Members could make use of their own personal networks to bring warmth to people in need in the district. When launching project items, Members could discuss with the Secretariat if purview of other government departments was involved and more information was required, and the Secretariat could assist in contacting the parties concerned.

39. Ms. LEE Sai-yin, Jeanne said that MSW Charging would be implemented in April, she hoped that Environmental Protection Department ("EPD") would arrange for a publicity vehicle to promote it in the district to dovetail with Members' district services and work of Care Teams, such that members of the public

could have a better understanding of the policy. She recommended that the publicity vehicle be parked at Tai Po Arts Centre (“TPAC”).

40. Mr. CHAN Pok-chi suggested that sponsorship be sought from foundation and clansmen associations for installation of motion sensors in the homes of elderly singletons for timely contact with the Care Teams to provide assistance in the event of an incident. Besides, he was of the view that fishermen were in tradition less likely to take initiative to seek help, and he recommended that special attention be given to fishermen groups.

41. Ms. LOK Siu-luen said that some members of the public had reflected to her their opinions and worries regarding MSW Charging, and she recommended that publicity of MSW Charging be enhanced in the district.

42. Mr. LO Hiu-fung said that MSW Charging would be implemented on 1 April and there might be insufficient time if publicity work was taken forward only after the DC meeting in March. Hence, he agreed to first publicising MSW Charging policy during Care Action. He suggested that MSW Charging pamphlets be obtained from EPD and Care Action be used as an occasion to promote the policy concerned to residents.

43. Mr. WU Cheuk-him said that many elderly people worried about the expenditure on designated bags for MSW Charging. He suggested that designated bags be provided to the elderly during warmth-bringing activities, which could also serve publicity and education purposes.

44. The Chairman said she hoped that she could keep following up on suggestions put forward by Members which were specific and would facilitate policy implementation in the future, such that Members could enrich and give multiple levels of meaning to their work when taking forward related work.

(Post-meeting note:

The Chief Executive Mr. John Ka-chui LEE, accompanied by the District Officer (Tai Po), had participated in wishing placards throwing at the Wishing Tree in Lam Tsuen on 7 February 2024. Before throwing wishing placards, he had joined Members and the Care Team (P13 Lam Tsuen Valley) to visit the elderly in the village, had poon choi with the elderly at the recreation centre and sent them regards and blessings. The Chief Executive attached great importance to the forging of a caring and inclusive living environment in the 18 Districts. He extended his special thanks to the Care Teams which knew the district well and played an important role in delivering the caring values.

Accompanied by the District Officer (Tai Po), Mr. Chris SUN, Secretary for Labour and Welfare, had joined TPDC Members and the Care Team (P01 Tai Po District Residents Association) to visit elderly households in the vicinity of Tai Po Market on 8 February 2024 to gain an understanding about their daily life and needs, and sent them New Year lucky bags and festival blessings.

The EPD had explained to Members arrangement details of MSW Charging policy at the FEHC meeting on 9 January 2024. Subsequently, the Government announced that implementation of the programme was

postponed to 1 August of the same year. Members had attended the briefing held by Environment and Ecology Bureau in connection with the policy at Central Government Offices on 26 January 2024. To facilitate policy publicity of MSW Charging, EPD had furnished each Member/Care Team 300 sets of publicity materials (including one publicity pamphlet and two designated bags (15L each) in each set) in early February, so that Members/Care Teams could hand out publicity materials provided by EPD to members of the public during their routine contact with the public.)

(b) Conducting Year End Cleaning Activities in the district with Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

45. The Chairman said that each year, FEHD would carry out “Year End Cleaning Activities”, which in this year would commence in mid-January and last for 21 days. She briefly introduced the Year End Cleaning Activities which TPDC would jointly carry out with FEHD before Chinese New Year (i.e. late January) as follows:

- (i) Activity 1: TPDO would jointly organise a Year End Cleaning Activity with FEHD to give out household cleaning kits to members of the public in the district. Members would be invited to participate then to promote to residents in the district the message of keeping their home clean during the year end.
- (ii) Activity 2: FEHD personnel would clean facilities such as public markets, cooked food centres and hawker bazaars in the district thoroughly. Members could contact and mobilise shops in the district to respond to the district cleaning activities to clean their shops / stalls.
- (iii) Activity 3: FEHD personnel would carry out thorough cleaning and anti-mosquito and rodent operations targeting at spots such as tenement buildings, streets, rear lanes, common areas of buildings, village houses, construction sites, vacant sites and roadside construction sites in the district. Members could contact management companies of housing estates and private buildings to respond to the cleaning activities to thoroughly clean the common areas.

46. Mr. WU Cheuk-him said that cleaning should be done at pedestrian subways, footbridges and places managed by LCSO. He asked if FEHD would use high-temperature and high-pressure equipment to cleanse the streets. Besides, he had received a reply from Link REIT (“LINK”) that it could tie in with local cleaning activities. He asked the department to urge LINK markets, merchants and housing estates to respond to the cleaning activities.

47. Ms. WONG Pik-kiu said that LINK should keep the area under its management clean. Some car parks of housing estates in the district did not have sufficient cleaning manpower, while some recyclers piled up miscellaneous objects all over the place. Such problems had remained unresolved over extended periods of time. Besides, she recommended that FEHD hold a meeting with stakeholders of Tai Po Market merchant associations and shops to discuss rest arrangements of cleaning workers during year end and Chinese New Year holidays, and the problems of street and rear lane cleaning and hawking.

48. Mr. WAN Koon-kau recommended that FEHD step up cleansing rear lanes in Tai Po Market and clearing sundries such as cardboards being piled up during the year end.

49. The Chairman recommended that matters relating to cleaning and illegal hawking during the New Year be referred to FEHC for detailed discussion.

50. Mr. CHAN Tsz-kin indicated that he had already contacted shops and tenement buildings in the district via merchant associations, and they wished to know how they could tie in with the cleaning activities.

51. The Chairman advised that FEHD would clean pedestrian accesses and public areas, while shops would respond to the activities by cleaning their private business areas. An overview of the arrangement of the activities was contained in the paper. Members could find out from FEHD details such as date, time and venue of the activities.

52. Mr. Gordon CHU indicated that LCSD would be happy to facilitate the activities to make the community cleaner through synergy, so that members of the public could feel the joint efforts government departments made.

53. Mr. MA Hing-sum, Patrick advised that FEHD would submit the paper regarding the Year End Cleaning Activities 2024 at the FEHC meeting on 9 January for Members' reference. The activities would be carried out in three phases and eight areas, and the department would step up publicity to shops and stakeholders when patrolling. FEHD would arrange for cleansing of streets by high-pressure water guns or pressure washer surface cleaners in light of the street condition. Pedestrian subways and footbridges fell under the purview of HyD, and the department would notify relevant departments to step up cleansing together.

54. The Chairman indicated that FEHC would have in-depth discussion in connection with "Year End Cleaning Activities", and asked Members to tie in with the activities concerned.

(Post-meeting note: "Year End Cleaning Activities 2024" jointly organised by TPDO and FEHD was held on 1 February 2024. TPDC Chairman and Members gave out household cleaning kits to members of the public outside Tai Po Complex and at Tai Po Central Town Square. The Chairman and Members had also inspected the environmental hygiene condition at rear lanes in Tai Po Market to gain an understanding of rodent control work of FEHD, and tried using pressure washer surface cleaners to clean the streets.)

VIII. Concrete suggestions for organisation of activities to promote district economic development **(TPDC Paper No. 6/2024)**

IX. Councils-related measures in the Policy Address – Suggestions for provision of check-in landmarks showcasing district uniqueness

(TPDC Paper No. 7/2024)

55. The Chairman recommended that agenda items VIII and IX be discussed together. She indicated that under the premise of optimal use of district resources and taking into account the situation of the district, the DC would promote district economy by organising activities showcasing district uniqueness and traditional cultural substance to attract participation of the public and visitors. After discussion at the preparation meeting on 20 December 2023, TPDC recommended the organisation of two activities to promote district economy, namely, the organisation of “Well-wishing Night Market” at Lam Tsuen Wishing Square during Chinese New Year to tie in with Hong Kong Well-wishing Festival, and the organisation of “Arts and Culture Youth Night Bazaar” at TPAC on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays during the period between 14 February 2024 (Valentine’s Day) and 14 March 2024 (White Day). She asked Members to put forward opinions and suggestions in connection with the aforesaid activities.

56. Mr. LEE Hon-cheung suggested that in-house produced dairy products (for example, ice-cream) be sold at the “Well-wishing Night Market” by working together with the farm of City University of Hong Kong (“CityU”) which was located at Lam Tsuen. He opined that the products being made in Tai Po could serve as a gimmick to attract attention and media coverage. He said he could assist in the liaison.

57. Mr. LO Hiu-fung indicated that while he hoped that the activities could be held smoothly and successfully, he was also very concerned about the access of residents near the venues of the activities. He recommended that the time and arrangements of the activities be adjusted suitably to avoid affecting the daily routine of local residents. Besides, convenient transport to and from the venues of activities was conducive to attracting more members of the public to participate in the activities. He suggested that special buses running directly to and from activity venues be provided and free shuttle bus service be offered to the six major housing estates in the district, so as to minimise the use of private cars by members of the public, whereby keeping the impact on local residents’ access to a minimum, while attracting residents of the district to take part in the activities. As the activities would bring enormous traffic flows, he recommended that the Police take reference from previous traffic arrangements during Lam Tsuen Well-wishing Festivals and step up the scale through measures such as issuing “villager pass” to the villagers to facilitate their access.

58. Ms. WONG Pik-kiu suggested that “Arts and Culture Youth Night Bazaar” dovetail with Valentine’s Day to set up lighting installation with the theme of flowers, while stalls in the bazaar could sell items at a discounted price and give out bazaar consumption vouchers during designated timeslots and members of the public could collect stamps for lucky draws after spending money.

59. Mr. WU Cheuk-him recommended that special activities tying in with Lantern Festival be held to attract couples to “check in”, while “Arts and Culture Youth Night Bazaar” could have middle-class households in nearby housing estates as its target audience and add children elements in the merchandise. Besides, he suggested that cross-over events be held together with YATA Department Store to enhance visitor flows and

spending.

60. The Chairman indicated that TPDO had already activated the collaboration with Tai Po Mega Mall to organise Tai Po Lung Mei Beach Festival last December and more than 30 restaurants and shops had given out dining and shopping offers to tie in with the activity. Members of the public who had “checked in” by taking photos at the venue of the Beach Festival could get a \$20 dining voucher in Tai Po Mega Mall by showing the photos taken at the said activity. Tai Po Mega Mall had subsequently indicated that the activity concerned achieved better than expected results. Many members of the public had asked customer service personnel how to get to Tai Po Lung Mei Beach Festival and it was thus evident that the activity had generated some synergy. She thanked Members’ suggestion that selecting TPAC as the site for “Arts and Culture Youth Night Bazaar” could work more effectively together with small shops nearby to generate visitor flows for shops in the neighbourhood and boost the economy.

61. Mr. MUI Siu-fung said that as the Education University of Hong Kong had indicated its wish to participate in more district activities, the University could be invited to take part in “Well-wishing Night Market” and “Arts and Culture Youth Night Bazaar”. The area surrounding Tai Po Centre was pleasant and he suggested that the walkway between TPAC and Block 9 of Tai Po Centre be decorated with lightings, which he believed would become a highlight among check-in landmarks. Given the spacious venue of Lam Tsuen Wishing Square, he recommended that stalls selling snacks or food items with characteristics unique to Tai Po be provided to attract more members of the public, while priority be given to merchants of Tai Po District to participate in the activity so as to boost district economy.

62. The Chairman indicated that Members had thoroughly considered and put forward suggestions in connection with the “Dining, Shopping, Having Fun” features of the activities, while Tai Po had many snacks with district distinctiveness, which was one of the highlights of the activity. She hoped that Members would actively provide their networks, invite shops with characteristics to take part in the activities and notify the Chairman of the Working Group of the arrangements concerned as early as possible so as to endow the activities with more district distinctiveness and attractiveness.

63. Mr. LEE Man-kit suggested that arts performances or talks be held at TPAC and parent-child activities be organised on holidays.

64. The Chairman indicated that the element of “Having Fun” (i.e. experience of activities) was very important for both activities. She said that Busking would be arranged for during the “Arts and Culture Youth Night Bazaar”, while the café on the ground floor of TPAC had the intention to dovetail the activity to provide outdoor catering services in the evening. She believed that Hong Kong Arts Development Council, which was the operator of TPAC, would look forward to working together with TPDO. She asked Members to put forward suggestions in connection with special activities for Lantern Festival, Valentine’s Day and White Day.

65. Ms. CHAN Kin-kwan recommended that common elements shared by the two activities be identified to form a cross-over to attract participation of members of the public, for instance, introduction of consumption packages to extend the consumer sentiment. Besides, she suggested that incentive be provided for local residents to take part in the activities, such as offering coupons which could be used in shops in the district for a certain period after the activities, so as to attract more members of the public to take part in the activities.

66. Ms. LEE Sai-yin, Jeanne suggested that “Well-wishing Buns and Dim-sums” be introduced to tie in with the “Well-wishing Night Market”, and hoped that the check-in landmarks of the activities could have characteristics unique to Tai Po. In addition, she suggested that the Police provide passes to villagers nearby to facilitate their access.

67. Mr. CHAN Pok-chi indicated that the farm of CityU produced a small amount of milk at the present stage and was only available in the canteen of the university. Should the milk be available at the “Well-wishing Night Market”, he believed that many members of the public would be attracted to taste it. He also suggested working together with Fish Marketing Organisation to promote locally produced fish products. Besides, TPAC was optimally located where people from different walks of life gathered, which could blend innovative ideas with traditional ones to produce creative cuisines. There were many young people and start-ups running personal media who could assist in promotion at different social media.

68. Mr. CHAN Cho-leung indicated that service of Lam Tsuen minibuses was relatively infrequent and villagers often failed to travel by minibuses during rush hours after work. Hence, it was necessary to improve the transport ancillary facilities. Despite the space available at Lam Tsuen for a large number of vehicles to park, it might not necessarily be able to accommodate thousands of visitors during the activities.

69. The Chairman indicated that the impact on residents in areas near the activity venues was the primary consideration factor when organising the two activities mentioned above, while the impact on nearby residents was also a priority concern when choosing venues for the activities. TPAC was chosen because the activity could take place on the side which was further away from the residential area. As regards the “Well-wishing Night Market” at Lam Tsuen, she totally agreed that traffic was the primary concern. Before organising the annual “Tai Po Well-wishing Festival” in the past, multiple major cross-departmental meetings had always been held to discuss traffic issues. As the night market element was added this year, adjustment and coordination would be required. TPDO had already started discussing with the Police and TD, and preliminarily considered it not suitable for members of the public to go to the activity venue by private cars during the night market session, which would increase traffic flows in the district, while having a significant impact on residents nearby too. Hence, TPDO was actively considering the feasibility and operational arrangement of providing shuttle bus service, and would continue discussing the detailed arrangement with relevant departments. She emphasised that the Working Group and cross-departmental meetings would certainly consider and handle the traffic arrangement actively.

70. Mr. CHAN Yung-wa indicated that in addition to providing free shuttle bus service, special decoration on the exterior of the buses related to the activities could attract more members of the public to take part in the activities. Besides, he opined that the element of alcohol could be added to the activities so as to reduce participants' desire to drive, which would virtually encourage members of the public to use public transport.

71. Mr. MAK Shing-ho, Gary said that the activities would take place during Chinese New Year. Experienced merchants would have their stock ready. However, it would take time for young people to produce their hand-made items. He recommended that stallholders interested in taking part in the bazaar be recruited earlier if the date of the activities was confirmed, so that they could start preparing ahead of time. Besides, as the activities would take place at night, stallholders would need to install lighting, which could increase the cost to build a stall. Hence, he recommended that subsidies be provided to young stallholders to help them start their business, and they might settle in Tai Po in the future, which would inject new dynamics to the business sector in the district.

72. Mr. LAM Yick-kuen said that as the "Well-wishing Night Market" at Lam Tsuen would be held within three weeks, he suggested that Members gather to have a preliminary discussion this afternoon, and invited Members of the Working Group to attend the discussion as far as possible.

73. Mr. YU Chi-wing said that he hoped more merchants in Tai Po could be mobilised to participate in the activities by inviting them to give out coupons of their shops at the bazaar to boost the district economy.

74. The Chairman indicated that valuable experience regarding liaison with local merchants had been gained after the Tai Po Lung Mei Beach Festival held last December, and an understanding of the visitor flows and effect generated by the activity was also achieved. She opined that small shops would first need to have confidence in the activities before considering whether or not to take part in the activities or to offer discounts. She hoped that Members could assist in contacting local merchants to participate in the activities.

75. Mr. LO Hiu-fung thanked the Chairman for considering the supporting amenities for residents' daily life as the first priority. He wished to know the time when the activities would be held and the traffic arrangements. As all 18 districts territory-wide would organise similar activities and night markets, he was of the view that consideration should be given to how the distinguishness of the district's activities could be enhanced and the incentive could be increased. While "Well-wishing Night Market" had the Wishing Tree of Lam Tsuen with unique characteristics, "Arts and Culture Youth Night Bazaar" could work together with Hong Kong Railway Museum to set up railway-themed installation art with a younger entry point to attract members of the public to "check in" and to achieve publicity effects at the same time. Besides, he could help contact those youth service groups with which he had worked together in the past.

76. Ms. LOK Siu-luen indicated that it would be of limited help to strengthen bus services, and recommended that shuttle bus service be provided between Lam Tsuen and Tai Wo Station.

77. Mr. WAN Koon-kau said that he strongly supported the activities concerned, but felt conflicted as a Lam Tsuen resident himself because he anticipated that there would be severe traffic congestion then. He opined that participants would very likely opt to go to the “Well-wishing Night Market” by car, which would affect the access of villagers, he hoped that the departments concerned would properly deal with the traffic problems. Besides, Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden had impressive blooming of plants this year, and had the intention to work together with the “Well-wishing Night Market” to provide shuttle bus service between the two venues.

78. The Chairman emphasised that the impact of the activities on Lam Tsuen residents was the most important concern of TPDO, which would tackle the problem from various fronts, including the enhancement of transport capacity such as providing shuttle bus service or strengthening existing bus service, and the consideration of setting restrictions on private cars. Moreover, interchange discounts could be provided. The shuttle bus ride from Tai Wo Station to Lam Tsuen took less than 10 minutes, rendering it an attractive choice for members of the public. Lam Tsuen Wishing Festival took place every year, similar situations were not unfamiliar. Departments concerned would discuss and consider the feasibility of various measures at the cross-departmental meetings.

79. Mr. WONG Wai-tung recommended that correlated series of activities be launched together with other DCs for better publicity. In addition, he also suggested that stalls offering service, for instances, watermark tattoo stickers or arm-painting, be included in the bazaar.

80. Mr. LEE Hon-cheung indicated that Hong Kong Retail Management Association, which had more members, could be contacted as it might be able to offer more and bigger discounts for the activities.

81. The Chairman responded as follows:

- (i) She recommended that the Working Group discuss “check-in” landmarks which could tie in with the theme of “Well-wishing Night Market”.
- (ii) Dragon boat races were an item with district characteristics, history and culture of Tai Po too. Consideration would be given to the provision of a landmark installation related to dragon boat at Tai Po Waterfront Park, while corresponding activities would also be arranged for when dragon boat races were being held.
- (iii) Members had put forward suggestions in connection with the impact of the activities on traffic and members of the public, and the “Dining, Shopping, Having Fun” features of the bazaar. She encouraged Members to join the Working Group to discuss.
- (iv) Owing to the fact the activities would be held rather soon, there was not much time available for preparation. However, with concerted efforts, she was confident that fabulous items could be organised successfully to boost the economy. She would draw reference from the experience gained from the organisation of Tai Po Lung Mei Beach Festival last year, make optimal use of the accumulated networks with merchants and local groups, and incorporate

new elements to organise the activities this time to boost district economy, while the experience gained this time could be used further for organising major activities in Tai Po District in the future to generate substantial visitor flows and boost the district economy.

X. Any other business

82. Ms. LOK Siu-luen said some residents had reflected that the public toilets at Tai Yuen Estate were in very poor condition while the facilities were in need of repair.

83. The Chairman recommended that the matter concerned be referred to FEHC for follow up.

(Post-meeting note: As regards the hygiene problems of Tai Yuen Estate, FEHD had already invited Members to an on-site inspection on 25 January 2024.)

XI. Date of next meeting

84. The next meeting would be held at 9:30 a.m. on 5 March 2024 (Tuesday).

85. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Tai Po District Council Secretariat
February 2024