

Summary of the Minutes of the 12th Meeting of the Tsuen Wan District Council

The 12th Meeting of the Tsuen Wan District Council (TWDC) was held on 24 September 2013. The major issues discussed were summarised as follows:

Visit of Director of Housing to Tsuen Wan District Council cum Briefing on the Long Term Housing Strategy Consultation Document

2. The Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing (Housing)/Director of Housing visited TWDC and briefed Members on the work of the Housing Department (HD) and Long Term Housing Strategy Consultation Document. Members expressed their views and recommendations on coping with the short-term demand for housing, relaxation of the limit of living space per person in public housing estates, addressing the problem of overcrowding households together with that of nearly overcrowding households in the same district, coordination of various policies of HD, returning or seeking more land for development of public housing, introduction of new ideas to the design of public housing instead of construction of public rental housing flats same in kind, allowing the elderly aged 70 or above to live in their public rental housing flats for the rest of their lives, handling the cases in which the applicants on the Waiting List for Public Rental Housing were in urgent need of “moving into public housing” on compassionate grounds by HD and deterring the subdivision of flats. Some Members praised the work carried out by HD staff and welcomed the consultation document but expressed their reservation on the recommendation of in-fill needle-type residential developments. The Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing (Housing)/Director of Housing duly responded Members’ concern in detail and remarked that a further reply for partial response, if any, would be given to Members after the meeting.

Visit of Director of Health to Tsuen Wan District Council

3. The Director of Health visited TWDC and introduced the work of the Department of Health (DH). She briefed Members on the organisation of DH, Major Initiatives in 2013/14, including the work on prevention and control of communicable diseases as well as the work on the strategy for prevention and control of non-communicable diseases. Members expressed their views and recommendations on cooperation between the frontline healthcare staff of DH and Member’s office for provision of publicity and education of health and hygiene to residents, enhancing the work of Working Group on Alcohol and Health, strengthening the existing dental service, provision of additional resources and subsidies particularly for the dental

service for the elderly, strengthening the out-patient service, provision of evening out-patient service, allocation of additional frontline healthcare manpower, strengthening the child assessment, Chinese medicine and tobacco control services, introduction of SafeT21 for pre-natal screening for Down's syndrome, provision of regular check-up for the public for disease prevention to reduce the pressure of the healthcare system, provision of free cervical cancer vaccination for the girls at the appropriate age, provision of government subsidies on orthodontic service for school children, shortening of the waiting time for Specialist Services in public hospitals by taking forward the public-private partnership programme, dispensing two-to-three-months' medicine with foil packaging for the elderly for better storage, enhancing the retention measures for healthcare staff in public sector, enhanced development of the centres for promotion of healthcare resources in various districts, earmarking funds for subsidising the Safe and Healthy Community Steering Committee by DH for health promotion activities and conducting a study on inclusion of the general knowledge of physical health in school curriculum by DH and the Education Bureau. The Director of Health duly responded to Members' concern on the services provided by DH and remarked that Members' views and aspirations for strengthening the out-patient service and provision of evening out-patient service as well as fostering public-private partnership for Specialist Services in public hospitals would be conveyed to the Hospital Authority.

Tsuen Wan Greening Master Plan

4. The Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) submitted the paper and briefed Members on its consultation work on the Tsuen Wan Greening Master Plan (GMP). The consultant companies introduced the current status of greening in Tsuen Wan, greening theme of "Green Vibrance" and theme species of trees in the district. The CEDD would instigate the detailed planning stage after seeking advice from TWDC. Members welcomed the GMP and expressed their concern on the locations for greening, highlighted locations for planting, conditions for the growth of trees and fall of pedestrians due to the fruits falling from trees on the walkways. The CEDD and consultant companies duly responded Members' enquiries and the CEDD would contact Members for the details of planning of the locations for planting.

Progress Report on Major Public Works Projects in Tsuen Wan District (as at 31 August 2013)

5. The CEDD reported the progress of the major public works projects in Tsuen Wan district. Members expressed their views and enquiries on the progress of

various works projects, including the mitigation works for landslides on natural hillsides of Sham Tseng San Tsuen, the works of the Ecological Park (Tso Kung Tam Valley Tsuen Wan), the works schedule of the Cycle Track between Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun, the works on Heung Che Street under the universally accessible project and the Replacement and Rehabilitation of Water Mains, Stage 3. The CEDD and Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) duly responded Members' enquiries.

Concern about the Effectiveness of Tobacco Control in Hong Kong

6. Two Members raised and discussed the issue of the "effectiveness of tobacco control in Hong Kong". They expressed their concern about the arriving time of the staff of Tobacco Control Office (TCO) at the scene where illegal smoking took place and whether the law enforcement work was effectively conducted by TCO staff in uniform as well as the recommendations on allocating additional resources to the services related to smoking cessation and extension of the existing no smoking areas. Some Members also put forth their enquiries and recommendations on the inclusion of covered walkways to the statutory no smoking areas, handling procedures and time arrangements upon receipt of complaints on illegal smoking, and the performance pledge and arrangements of the inspection and law enforcement work. The DH, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and LCSD duly responded to Members' concern and enquiries. The Chairman asked the DH to provide the Environmental and Health Affairs Committee (EHAC) under TWDC with the information such as the black spots of illegal smoking in the district and assign DH staff to attend the next meeting of EHAC.

Concern about the Problems related to the Implementation of the "Mandatory Window Inspection Scheme" and "Mandatory Building Inspection Scheme" in Tsuen Wan District and Request for Strengthening Support for Owners

7. Six Members raised and discussed their concern about the problems related to the implementation of the Mandatory Window Inspection Scheme and Mandatory Building Inspection Scheme (the Schemes) in Tsuen Wan district and request for strengthening support for owners, including the provision of more information and organisation of talks for the members of the public whose residential buildings were required to join the Schemes, allocating funds from the Operation Building Bright to subsidise the Schemes, enhancing the publicity of the Schemes, strengthening the measures on assistance to the owners, stipulation of the upper and lower limits for engagement of registered personnel for the inspection work, stipulation of fees for window inspection and ensuring sufficient registered personnel for the inspection

work, and the grounds of calculating the amount of subsidy for the Schemes as well as conducting a review on the unreasonable rationale for the subsidy. The BD and URA duly responded Members' enquiries and BD remarked that a written reply for incomplete response, if any, would be given to Members after the meeting. The Chairman asked the BD, URA and Housing Authority to assign their representatives to attend the next meeting of the Building, Planning and Development Committee under TWDC.

How the Lands Department Ensures and Improves the Existing Arrangement of Approval of Banners Hang on the Railings in the District in the Extremely Open, Fair and Just manner for Further Betterment of the Existing Mechanism

8. A Member raised and discussed the existing arrangement of approval of banners hang on the railings in Tsuen Wan district by the Lands Department (LandsD). He put forward his opinion and recommendation on the mechanism of approval of banners for hanging, according priority for the Members of District Councils to choose the designated spots, cancellation of the existing method of allocation by groups and enhancing communication as well as betterment of the existing mechanism. The LandsD duly responded to his enquiries and would contact him for follow-up matters.

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat
November 2013