

Summary of the Minutes of the 17th Meeting of the Tsuen Wan District Council

The 17th Meeting of the Tsuen Wan District Council (TWDC) was held on 29 July 2014. The major issues discussed were summarised as follows:

Review of the Hotel and Guesthouse Accommodation Ordinance

2. The representatives from the Home Affairs Department (HAD) introduced the consultation paper on Review of the Hotel and Guesthouse Accommodation Ordinance (the Ordinance) to Members. Members in general welcomed the recommendations in the consultation paper and raised their concern over the law enforcement work on renting apartments and houses with short-term tenancies on-line, shortage of hotels or guesthouses, economical accommodation options for tourists such as converting the factory buildings for guesthouse use, third-party risk insurance for the guesthouse and validity period of the outcome of the local consultation of residents' views on issue of licence to the guesthouse in their buildings. They expressed their views on the legislative proposal of "deeming provisions" and to empower the Hotel and Guesthouse Accommodation Authority to refuse to issue a guesthouse licence if the deed of mutual covenant of the building concerned contains explicit restrictive provisions. Some Members agreed that more stringent measures including the heavier penalties and issue of Closure Order against illegal operation of guesthouses should be taken. Besides, they opined that the consultation work carried out by the District Offices at the district level was sufficient and should be maintained, and an appeal mechanism with reference to that of liquor licensing could be established. Moreover, the amended Ordinance should be reviewed for its effectiveness after it had come into effect. The representatives from the HAD duly responded to Members' concern and enquiries. The Chairman asked HAD to consider Members' views on the consultation paper.

Request to Improve the Services for People with Disabilities

3. Two Members raised and discussed the request to improve the services for people with disabilities. They expressed concern over the emotional support service for the parents of the children with disabilities and future caring service for these children when they grew up as well as the stagnant development of the training service offered by the sheltered workshops in recent years. Moreover, they enquired about the number of people with disabilities and pointed out that the resources earmarked for them in the budget every year were insufficient to meet their needs because additional resources were not allocated to this end. They hoped that the departments concerned would enhance the supporting services for these people. The representatives from the Social Welfare Department, Labour Department, Education Bureau and Leisure and Cultural Services Department duly responded to Members'

concern and enquiries. They also provided the information of the existing and new services and programmes for the people with disabilities so as to address their needs on rehabilitation, employment, recreation, special education and psychological support in the community.

Strongly Condemn the Contractor of Refuse Collection Vehicles in Tsuen Wan District for its Poor Service Quality, Causing a Serious Impact on the Traffic and Environmental Services Facilities in Tsuen Wan District, and Urge the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department to Stipulate the Improvement Options Immediately

4. A Member raised and discussed the services provided by the contractor of refuse collection vehicles in Tsuen Wan district. Members expressed their concern over the time and frequency of refuse collection at different places and rural areas in Tsuen Wan. They also reflected the nuisance to the residents caused by collection of glass and glass bottles by the contractor at certain locations in Tsuen Wan in early morning. The representative from the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department duly responded to Members' concern and enquiries and undertook to report to the Members after conducting the follow-up work on the matter.

Issue about Sewage Nullah Connection in Lo Wai Village

5. Two Members raised and discussed the issue about sewage nullah connection in Lo Wai Village. They reflected the problem caused by the sewage discharged in the storm water drain to the Drainage Services Department (DSD). It was hoped that the DSD would draw up options for discharge of sewage to the foul sewer. Members noted that the review and consultation work on village sewerage works project were conducted earlier and opined that the DSD should stipulate short-term measures such as improving the nullah facilities in Lo Wai Village so as to prevent the drainage blockage before the funds application for the village sewerage works project was approved. The representative from the DSD duly responded to Members' enquiries. The Working Group on Squatter Matters in Tsuen Wan District would follow up on the matters concerned.

Request for Provision of Countdown Timers for Pedestrian Signals

6. A Member raised and discussed the request for provision of countdown timers for pedestrian signals. Members in general showed support to the trial survey on provision of countdown timers for pedestrian signals in Tsuen Wan on the grounds of pedestrian safety and the need for a review on traffic light facilities. The representative from the Transport Department responded to Members' concern and enquiries. The Chairman remarked that over two-thirds of Members of TWDC supported the recommendation set out in the captioned document and Members'

aspiration would be conveyed to the Commissioner for Transport in writing.

Strongly Request the Drainage Services Department to Study the Provision of Enclosed Roof Cover for the Tsuen Wan Open Sewage Pumping Station at the Junction of Wing Shun Street and Wing Tak Street in order to Safeguard the Health of the Residents Nearby

7. A Member raised and discussed the request for the DSD to provide an enclosed roof cover for the Tsuen Wan Open Sewage Pumping Station at the junction of Wing Shun Street and Wing Tak Street in order to safeguard the health of the residents nearby. Members expressed their concern over the measurement of odour and odour leakage from the pumping station even though the DSD had carried out the short-term redressing measures. The representative from the DSD duly responded to Members' enquiries. The Environmental and Health Affairs Committee could follow up on the matters concerned.

Request for Permanent Relocation of Dangerous Goods Anchorage at Tsuen Wan Water-front and Concern about the Nuisance of the Anchorage to the Community Nearby

8. A Member raised and discussed the request for permanent relocation of dangerous goods anchorage at Tsuen Wan water-front and concern about the nuisance of the anchorage to the community nearby. Members in general supported the relocation of dangerous goods anchorage in Tsuen Wan due to the noise nuisance and potential danger caused to the residents. They urged the government departments to identify a suitable site for relocation and devise mitigation measures on nuisance such as restriction of the number of vessels moored in the anchorage. The representatives from the Marine Department (MD) and Environmental Protection Department duly responded to Members' enquiries. Members were assured that their views would be conveyed to the relevant departments and the information of controlling dark smoke emission from vessels from the MD would be provided. The Community Building, Planning and Development Committee could follow up on the matters concerned.

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat
September 2014