

Summary of the Minutes of the 11th Meeting of the Tsuen Wan District Council

The 11th Meeting of the Tsuen Wan District Council (TWDC) was held on 30 July 2013. The major issues discussed were summarised as follows:

Visit of Director of Planning to Tsuen Wan District Council

2. The Director of Planning visited TWDC and introduced the work of the Planning Department, mainly including the planning work for the entire territory such as stipulating Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines, conducting study on cross-boundary transport infrastructure and study on the long-term planning, and the planning work for districts such as preparing the statutory town plans, handling the application for plans/amendment to statutory plans and collecting views from the public. In addition, he briefed Members on the planning and development of Tsuen Wan district, including the current situation of Tsuen Wan, socio-financial development and the change of land use planning, the planning for the new hub and the new planning and development items in the district. Members put forth various views and enquiries on the insufficient community facilities due to the increase of population in the district over the years, incorporation of views and recommendations from the TWDC into the newly revised Draft Outline Zoning Plan of Lot 393, rezoning the industrial area for more commercial elements instead of making it as a residential zone or for other uses, traffic congestion due to the rezoning of the industrial area, speeding up the development and construction works in the district such as the railway system and cycle track between Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun, development of Ma Wan and V zone as well as the reservation of land for small houses. The Director of Planning duly responded to Members' concern and remarked that the specific views and recommendations from Members would be followed up by District Planning Officer (Tsuen Wan and West Kowloon).

The Three-Runway System at the Hong Kong International Airport and the Flight Tracks

3. The Airport Authority (AA) and Civil Aviation Department (CAD) introduced the latest progress of the planning work of the three-runway system, design of flight tracks and noise abatement measures. Some Members raised objection to the captioned works and expressed their concern on the serious aircraft noise problem in Tsuen Wan, the criterion of Noise Exposure Forecast (NEF) applied on assessing the

aircraft noise, impact on the environment after the completion of the three-runway system as well as the impact on the fisheries together with the water flow and quality arising from the reclamation works. They also put forth enquiries and recommendations on various measures on stepping up the phasing-out of the old and noisy aircraft, penalty on the aircraft departing the flight tracks, extension of the noise abatement measures during nighttime, adoption of the continuous descent approach that helped mitigate the nuisance from aircraft noise and extension of the runway to exceed the boundary. On the other hand, some Members supported the construction of the third runway to enhance the competitiveness of Hong Kong, create more new posts, enlarge the employment size and strengthen the growth of the flight volume. The AA and CAD duly responded to Members' concern in detail. The Chairman urged the CAD and AA to take Members' views into consideration.

Briefing on the Hospital Annual Plan (13/14) and Yan Chai Hospital Board's Proposed Phase III Project

4. The Hospital Chief Executive (HCE) and Deputy Chief Executive of Yan Chai Hospital Board introduced its annual plan (13/14) and Yan Chai Hospital Board's proposed Phase III Project (the Project). Members supported the main direction of the Project and expressed their views on the consultation and communication work in the district before the commencement of the Project as well as the details of the Project and increase of manpower of Yan Chai Hospital to provide more services. The HCE duly responded to Members' concern and thanked Members for briefing the residents on the Project.

Concern about Undesirable Sales Practices of Telecommunications and Subscription Television Services Providers

5. Two Members raised their concern about the undesirable sales practices of telecommunications and subscription television services providers. Members further expressed their views on the undesirable sales practices especially towards the elderly residents in the public housing estate, the problems arising from renewal of contract with the telecommunications and subscription television services providers, whether there was a cooling-off period for the sales of telecommunication services as well as the effectiveness of the laws and regulations on protection of consumers' rights. The Chairman stated that the opinions of Members were recorded and would be conveyed to the Office of the Communication Authority (OFCA) and that the representative from OFCA would be invited to attend the next meeting.

Upholding the Core Value of Rule of Law in Hong Kong Objection to “Occupy Central”

6. Ten Members raised and discussed the issue of “Occupy Central”. The original motion of ‘TWDC expressed concern on the action of “Occupy Central” which was brought about by some individuals and political groups. TWDC respects the freedom of speech and gathering. Also, for upholding the core value of rule of law in Hong Kong and the interest of Tsuen Wan residents, we raise objection to the action of “Occupy Central” which undermines the social order of Hong Kong and request the relevant departments to adopt effective measures to uphold the rule of law and social order of Hong Kong and protect Tsuen Wan residents’ living and working from being affected’ was endorsed with a vote of 12 in favour, 3 against and 0 abstention.

Briefing on Buildings Energy Efficiency Ordinance

7. The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) briefed Members on the objectives and key requirements of the Buildings Energy Efficiency Ordinance (the Ordinance) which had been come into full effect from 21 September 2012 onward. Members expected that the EMSD would enhance the publication and communication work on the Ordinance in the district. Members then raised their concern on the implementation details of the Ordinance, including the amount of fines, problems encountered by the landlords of some old buildings as well as the commercial and residential portions of some single-storey old buildings under the management of the same owners’ corporation when meeting the deadline of the first batch of Energy Audit and certain requirements of the Ordinance and whether there were more economical Energy Audit services for the landlords of single-storey buildings. The EMSD duly responded to Members’ enquiries and was asked to contact the Member concerned for discussion of the details of implementation of the Ordinance.

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat
September 2013