

Summary of the Minutes of the 19th Meeting of the Tsuen Wan District Council

The 19th Meeting of the Tsuen Wan District Council (TWDC) was held on 25 November 2014. The major issues discussed were summarised as follows:

Visit of Permanent Secretary for the Environment/Director of Environmental Protection to Tsuen Wan District Council

2. The Permanent Secretary for the Environment/Director of Environmental Protection introduced the work of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), including the sustainable use of resources, encouragement of involvement from community in environmental protection and improvement of air quality. Members expressed concerns about emissions from marine vessels, the local air quality, promotion of the use of electric vehicle, control of reflections from glass curtain walls of buildings, odour problem at the seaside of Tsuen Wan and control of flight and railway noise nuisance. They also put forth their views and enquiries on the Recycling Fund, Producer Responsibility Schemes, quantity-based municipal solid waste charging, the Environmental Levy Scheme on Plastic Shopping Bags, monitoring of recycling industry as well as the Ex-gratia Payment Scheme for Phasing-out Pre-Euro IV Diesel Commercial Vehicles. Some Members indicated their support for construction of waste-to-energy facilities and the need for stepping up measures to reduce emissions from various sources such as food waste, power plants and different types of vehicles. The Permanent Secretary for the Environment/Director of Environmental Protection duly responded to Members' concern and enquiries in detail.

“Strongly Request the Staff above Officer-Grade of the District Council Secretariat to Improve the Existing Way of Communication with District Council Members in order to Prevent the Secretariat from Being Overwhelmed by Powers and Applying at Random the Unknown Ordinances or Guidelines to Stop or Interrupt Members from Making Recommendations Pursuant to the Requirement of the Reply Slip Issued by the Council.”

3. A Member raised and discussed the request for the staff above officer-grade of the District Council Secretariat to improve the existing way of communication with District Council Members in order to prevent the Secretariat from being overwhelmed by powers and applying at random the unknown ordinances or guidelines to stop or interrupt Members from making recommendations pursuant to the requirement of the reply slip issued by the Council. The Chairman and Secretary of TWDC duly responded to the Member's request and enquiry. The matter would be discussed on the meeting of Finance and In-house Working Group in due course.

Request for Strengthening the Support for Patients of Mood Disorders in Community

4. Two Members raised and discussed the request for strengthening the support for patients of mood disorders in community. Some Members expressed concern over the resources and frontline healthcare manpower for these patients and the violent incidents caused by the people suffered from depression or mental illness. They considered that it was difficult to handle such incidents especially those occurred in the private housing estates. Moreover, they opined that the government should enhance the training for the frontline staff to handle the people of mental illness and the follow up works concerning patients of mood disorders in community. The representatives from the Department of Health, Hospital Authority, Housing Department, Social Welfare Department, Hong Kong Police Force and Caritas Hong Kong The Wellness Link (Tsuen Wan) duly responded to Members' enquiries and briefed Members on the existing services and arrangements provided for the needy in the community.

Request the Transport Department to Install Noise Barriers at Tsuen Wan Road off City Point

5. Two Members raised and discussed the request for the Transport Department (TD) to install the noise barriers at Tsuen Wan Road off City Point as the remedial measures for noise mitigation because the expansion works of Tsuen Wan Road and construction works of Tsuen Wan Bypass had not confirmed yet due to objection. The representatives from the TD, EPD and Civil Engineering and Development Department duly responded to Members' enquiries. The representative from the EPD explained that the traffic noise problem had been considered and handled at the planning stage of the development project concerned. As the relevant design of the development project had met the requirements in Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines, EPD would not consider the installation of noise barrier at the existing road, nevertheless, he undertook to follow up the problem with the Members after the meeting.

“Request the Civil Aviation Department to Forbid the Chapter 3 Aircraft From Landing and Taking Off During Nighttime and Set Up a Noise Monitoring Terminal on the Brothers Islands”

6. Two Members raised and discussed the request for the Civil Aviation Department (CAD) to forbid the Chapter 3 Aircraft from landing and taking off during nighttime and set up a noise monitoring terminal on the Brothers Islands. They urged the government department concerned to stipulate more improvement measures on the legal front. It was hoped that the CAD and EPD would improve the

problem of aircraft noise at the small hours of the morning by drawing reference from the experiences of other advanced countries and cities so that the residents in Ma Wan, Tsing Lung Tau and Sham Tseng would no longer be affected. The representatives from the CAD and EPD duly responded to Members' enquiries. The motion was endorsed with a vote of 8 in favour, 0 against and 6 abstention.

“Tuen Mun to Tsuen Wan Link” Project Shelved by the Government

7. Two Members raised and discussed the “Tuen Mun to Tsuen Wan Link” Project (the Project) shelved by the government. They enquired about the alternative option for the Project. The representatives from Transport and Housing Bureau (THB) and Highways Department (HYD) explained that although the government did not have any alternative option for the Project, the THB and HYD would keep a close watch over the development in the West New Territories carried out by the Development Bureau and the need for provision of suitable ancillary transport facilities including rail services for the said development. However, rail services would not be the only option while other means of public transport such as buses or minibuses would also be taken into consideration in coping with the needs for public transport.

“Tsuen Wan District Council Urges the People Participating in the Illegal Occupy Movement to Cease the Illegal Occupation for Restoration of Normal Social Order As Soon As Possible.”

8. Two Members raised and discussed the motion that “Tsuen Wan District Council urges the people participating in the illegal occupy movement to cease the illegal occupation for restoration of normal social order as soon as possible.” Members in general supported the motion and protested against street violence. The motion was endorsed with a vote of 11 in favour, 0 against and 1 abstention and conveyed to the Security Bureau.

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat
January 2015