

(Translation)

Minutes of the 12th Meeting of Tsuen Wan District Council (3/17-18)

Date: 26 September 2017

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Venue: Main Conference Room, Tsuen Wan District Office

Present:

Mr CHUNG Wai-ping, SBS, MH (Chairman)

Mr WONG Wai-kit (Vice Chairman)

Mr MAN Yu-ming, MH

The Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael, BBS, JP

Mr KOO Yeung-pong, MH

Mr NG Hin-lung, Norris

Mr LI Hung-por

Ms LAM Yuen-pun, Phyllis

Ms LAM, Lam Nixie

Mr LAM Faat-kang, MH

The Hon CHAN Han-pan, Ben, JP

Mr CHAN Chun-chung, Jones

Mr CHAN Sung-ip, MH

Mr CHAN Yuen-sum, Sumly

Mr WONG Ka-wa

Mr KOT Siu-yuen

Mr CHOW Ping-tim

Mr CHENG Chit-pun

Mr LO Siu-kit, MH

Mr TAM Hoi-pong

In Attendance:

Miss YIP Kam-ching, Jenny, JP	District Officer (Tsuen Wan), Tsuen Wan District Office
Mr CHONG Kong-sang, Patrick	Assistant District Officer (Tsuen Wan), Tsuen Wan District Office
Mr CHOW Chun-hun, Gary	Assistant District Officer (Tsuen Wan) (Designate), Tsuen Wan District Office
Mr HUEN Yeuk-hon, John	Senior Liaison Officer (1), Tsuen Wan District Office
Ms LEE Lai-kiu, Winnie	Senior Liaison Officer (2), Tsuen Wan District Office
Ms CHIU Wing-lan, Margaret	District Commander (Tsuen Wan) (Acting), Hong Kong Police Force
Ms LAU Chui-ying, Bo	Police Community Relations Officer (Tsuen Wan), Hong Kong Police Force

Mr WONG Kwok-chun, Alex	District Social Welfare Officer (Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing), Social Welfare Department
Miss LO Pui-yiu, Sapphire	District Lands Officer (District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing), Lands Department
Mr TSE Hing-chit	Administrative Assistant/Lands (District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing), Lands Department
Mr MOK Ying-kit, Kenneth	Chief Transport Officer/NT South West, Transport Department
Mr WONG Hon-kit	Chief Manager/Management (Wong Tai Sin, Tsing Yi and Tsuen Wan), Housing Department
Ms KHATTAK Nasreen	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Tsuen Wan), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr LAM Chi-keung, Desmond	Chief Engineer/NTW 2 (New Territories West), Civil Engineering and Development Department
Mr CHENG Kwok-kuen, Chris	District Leisure Manager (Tsuen Wan), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mrs TSANG CHAN Mi-fong	Chief School Development Officer (Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing), Education Bureau
Miss LAM Siu-yung, Daisy (Secretary)	Senior Executive Officer (District Council), Tsuen Wan District Office
Mr LAU Shun-tak, Donald	Executive Officer I (District Council), Tsuen Wan District Office

For discussion of item 3:

Ms Carol YIP, JP	Director of Social Welfare, Social Welfare Department
Ms LUI Ka-wing	Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing) ³ , Social Welfare Department
Ms LIU Yuch-lam, Avis	Senior Social Security Officer (Tsuen Wan, Kwai Tsing and Tuen Mun), Social Welfare Department

For discussion of item 4:

Dr CHING Wai-kuen	Hospital Chief Executive, Yan Chai Hospital
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For discussion of item 5:

Mr TSANG Lap-kei, Freddie	Senior Engineer/2 (NTW), Civil Engineering and Development Department
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For discussion of item 6:

Ms LAM Lan-fong, Bubi	Senior School Development Officer (Tsuen Wan) ² , Education Bureau
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For discussion of item 7:

Miss LO Wai-yin, Phoenix	Senior Executive Officer (Planning) ⁷ (Acting), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms LAM Lan-fong, Bubi	Senior School Development Officer (Tsuen Wan) ² , Education Bureau
Miss HUI Pui-yuk, Hermia	Senior Housing Manager (Wong Tai Sin, Tsing Yi & Tsuen Wan 2), Housing Department
Ms LUI Ka-wing	Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing) ³ , Social Welfare Department

For discussion of item 8:

Dr CHAN Chi-ching, Jason	Veterinary Officer (Animal Management) New Territories North, Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
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For discussion of item 9:

Mr LAU Yin-pong	Country Parks Officer (Central), Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
Miss HUI Pui-yuk, Hermia	Senior Housing Manager (Wong Tai Sin, Tsing Yi & Tsuen Wan 2), Housing Department
Mr LI Tse-kwong, Murphy	Leisure Manager (Tree) NTW, Leisure and Cultural Services Department

For discussion of item 10:

Ms Mona LAM	Public Relational Manager – External Affairs, Mass Transit Railway Corporation Limited
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I Opening Remarks and Introduction

The Chairman welcomed Ms Carol YIP, the Director of Social Welfare as well as the Members and representatives from the government departments to the 12th meeting of Tsuen Wan District Council (TWDC) and introduced:

- (1) Mr CHOW Chun-hun, Gary who attended the meeting for the first time and would replace Mr CHONG Kong-sang, Patrick to assume the post of Assistant District Officer (Tsuen Wan), Tsuen Wan District Office (TWDO); and
- (2) Ms CHIU Wing-lan, Margaret, District Commander (Tsuen Wan) (Acting), Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF), who attended this meeting on behalf of Mr CHAN Lok-wing.

2. The Chairman reminded Members of sections 17(1) and 27 of the Tsuen Wan District Council Standing Orders (the “Standing Orders”) that any Member who wished to move a motion or ask any question at a meeting of the Council was required to give the Secretary a notice in writing ten clear working days before the meeting.

Thus, he reminded Members that the date of the next meeting was 28 November 2017 and the deadline for submission of paper was 13 November 2017. Moreover, the Chairman drew Members' attention that they should firstly consider putting forth the respective subject matters for discussion through the TWDC's committees when submitting the agenda items for the TWDC meetings. The Chairman asked Members to speak as concise as possible because there were many items on the agenda. In addition, according to section 28 of the Standing Orders, unless otherwise agreed by the Chairman, Members could speak and make supplementary remarks once for each agenda item at the meeting and each Member could speak up to 3 minutes.

3. The Chairman reminded that the persons sitting in on the meeting in the public gallery should keep quiet and refrain from speaking. According to section 15(2) of the Standing Orders, if a person attending or sitting in on a meeting of the Council misbehaved in such a way as to disrupt the orderly conduct of the meeting, the Chairman might issue warnings to the person. The Chairman might order the person to leave the place of the meeting if the person persisted in his or her misbehaviour despite warnings.

II Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes of the 11th Meeting held on 25.7.2017

4. The Chairman said that the Secretariat had not received any proposed amendments to the minutes before this meeting. The minutes were confirmed without amendment.

III Item 2: Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meetings

5. The Chairman said that there were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

IV Item 3: Visit of Director of Social Welfare to Tsuen Wan District Council

6. The Chairman welcomed the Director of Social Welfare who visited the TWDC and introduced the work of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) to Members. The other representatives from the SWD attending the meeting were:

- (1) Mr WONG Kwok-chun, Alex, District Social Welfare Officer (Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing);
- (2) Ms LUI Ka-wing, Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing)³; and
- (3) Ms LIU Yuch-lam, Avis, Senior Social Security Officer (Tsuen Wan, Kwai Tsing and Tuen Mun).

7. The Director of Social Welfare introduced the work of the SWD.

(Note: Mr WONG Ka-wa and Ms LAM, Lam Nixie joined the meeting at 2:55 p.m. and 2:59 p.m. respectively.)

8. Mr LI Hung-por said according to the social welfare sector, the Lump Sum Grant Subvention System (LSGSS) was truly undesirable and it was hoped that the SWD would abolish such a policy. He pointed out that after the LSGSS was

implemented, the social welfare organisations always laid off the more senior social workers for saving expenditures. He enquired if the LSGSS was to be reviewed by the SWD. Besides, the Government was currently launching the 15-year free education including the early childhood education and the academic qualifications of some of the early childhood workers were upgraded from diploma to university degree. He enquired if the SWD would provide a fixed pay structure for them. Moreover, the number of senior citizens was on the surge. He learnt from the old aged homes during visits that each resident of the old aged home was provided a funding of \$20,000 from the old aged home. He enquired whether the SWD would conduct a study on subsidisation of the elderly to live in the old aged homes in the Mainland in order to alleviate the burden of the elderly services in Hong Kong.

9. Ms LAM Yuen-pun, Phyllis stated that there were many elder people in Allway Constituency. According to the information of the Census and Statistics Department in 2016, there were 1 200 people aged 65 above and more than 3 600 people aged between 45 and 64 in Allway Constituency. It could be seen that there was a great demand for elderly services. She pointed out that Tsuen King Circuit Market would soon be closed on 1 March 2018. According to the findings of a survey conducted earlier, the members of the public generally hoped that a day care elderly services centre would be established in the district. She hoped that the SWD would give a helping hand to strive for it. She learnt that the elderly services centre would carry out improvement plans and provide additional modernised facilities. She further pointed out that there were five aged homes in the district which showed that there was a great demand for elderly services in the district. The services provided by the additional elderly services centres in the district in future would certainly be patronised effectively. Besides, there were only some 90 service places for the crèche in Tsuen Wan district; however, only half of the places was actually provided every year. The residents' needs were not well coped with. There were more than 800 young children aged 0 to 4 in only Allway Constituency. It was believed that there was an even greater overall demand for child care services in the whole Tsuen Wan district. She opined that crèche could be established in Tsuen King Circuit Market for provision of child care services in order to alleviate the burden of the on-the-job parents. Furthermore, some kindergarten principals relayed to her that the number of children with special needs was increasing and children under 6 were at their prime time of receiving treatments or trainings. Therefore, it was very important to provide assistance for kindergartens.

10. Mr CHAN Yuen-sum, Sumly thanked the District Social Welfare Officer (Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing) of the SWD and his team, in particular, the family service and integrated service teams, for maintaining good communication with Members. He supported the abolishment of the LSGSS and pointed out that after the implementation of the LSGSS, there was different pay for the same work in the sector. Also, some social welfare organisations initiated layoffs due to poor financial management or other reasons. He was worried that the staff morale would be affected and unemployment would be triggered due to the payment of salary without an accountable basis in accordance with the pay level of the staff under the old system for the time being. He also appreciated the SWD for relaxing the asset limits of the Old Age Living Allowance (OALA). However, as many elder people who possessed a lump sum savings were ineligible for making application for the OALA, he hoped

that the SWD would cancel the restriction of asset limits of the OALA, so that the heavy workload on administrative and vetting work would be reduced and the dignity of the elderly recipients of the allowance would be preserved. In addition, the waiting time of the existing elderly services and residential care homes for people with disabilities were very long. Although the SWD had encouraged the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to convert the existing facilities for increasing the service places, he thought that the service places were still insufficient. Thus, he enquired whether the Government would preserve a considerable ratio of land in the public housing or private buildings to be built in future for provision of the respective services, so that the people in need would obtain the respective services without going to the remote areas. He also hoped that the SWD would discuss with the Planning Department (PD) and departments concerned on the land use by reservation of part of the land for respective services. He was pleased to note that the number of the service places of child care services was increased but he opined that the overall service places were still insufficient. Many on-the-job parents and single parent families were unable to identify the suitable child care organisations. He enquired whether the Government would provide more service places for child care services. Recently, he was pleased to note that the Government had set up the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged and hoped that the SWD would support different organisations in Tsuen Wan district.

11. Mr TAM Hoi-pong said that there was media coverage on the problem of manpower shortage in the residential care homes for the elderly. The Government proposed importing foreign labour to solve the problem. He pointed out that the workload of the residential care homes was heavy and it was generally regarded as obnoxious job, but the Government's residential care homes could not employ the foreign labour due to the restrictions of the policy. Hence, he hoped that the Government would first consider increasing the salary for the staff working in the subsidised residential care homes in order to attract the entrants. He further pointed out that a person with disabilities from Ma Wan sought his assistance. He was told that the family members of the person with disabilities were hospitalised and he wanted to get the home care services. The person with disabilities made enquiries to the relevant organisations in Tsuen Wan district and was given a reply that he was required to undergo a vetting. Meanwhile, the service provided by private organisations was too expensive and the person with disabilities did not have enough time to employ a foreign domestic helper. He thus enquired how members of the public sought assistance when in urgent need of home care services; and whether an aligned standard was set up for the private home care services. Besides, following the on-set of the aging trend, the number of elder people in Ma Wan was increasing. He enquired whether the SWD would provide the elderly services in Ma Wan; and whether the \$2 concessionary travelling fare would be provided for the elderly living in Ma Wan.

12. Mr NG Hin-lung, Norris stated that according to the SWD, the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme provided a safety net for those who could not support themselves financially and it was designed to bring their income up to a prescribed level to meet their basic needs. He added that it was very reasonable to process the vetting for the CSSA applicants; however, starting from this year, the citizens who had children and wished to apply for the CSSA were no longer

required to submit the declaration of not providing support to parents. Superficially, the application procedures of CSSA became simple and straightforward; however, the SWD currently changed to request the children of the CSSA applicants to provide a financial proof to show that they were unable to provide support to their parents. This, in turn, had made the application procedures more complicated and incorporated the assets of the children of the CSSA applicants into the scope of vetting. Traditionally, the children were held responsible for providing support to their parents; yet, in fact, it was unavoidable for the children to resort to providing no support to their parents because of their own financial difficulties. He thus enquired how the SWD ensured that the daily living needs of the people whose CSSA applications were rejected could be duly coped with. Besides, there were many street sleepers in different areas in Hong Kong. Some people became street sleepers due to loss of accommodation arising from family problems. He pointed out that in the United Kingdom, the Government was responsible for providing necessary assistance to the priority category of street sleepers including the pregnant women or the elderly and disadvantaged groups who lived on the street without choice or due to involuntary reasons, so that these street sleepers were safely accommodated. Locally, the SWD seemed inactive in handling some cases of street sleepers, resulting in making no improvement for the living of the street sleepers and causing the environmental and hygienic problems in the community. He thus enquired whether the SWD had stipulated the work target and timetable for proactively arranging the safe accommodation for street sleepers within a reasonable period of time. He hoped that the SWD would handle the problem without delay.

13. Ms LAM, Lam Nixie said the aging population of Tsuen Wan district in future would be a relatively difficult problem that triggered a change on the respective service, future needs and overall community planning. She pointed out that the residential and care services expected to be provided in the newly-built premises as mentioned by a Member was a special mode in Hong Kong. If it was implemented successfully, the elder people would not be lonely because they could live in the aged homes near the residence of their family members. She further pointed out that it was difficult to identify land in Hong Kong. The site of the former Tsuen Wan Magistrates' Courts was currently used for file record purpose. The site was located at the Tsuen Wan town centre with an efficient transport network. She enquired whether the SWD would take the initiative in making requests to the relevant departments for acquiring part of the site for use. She believed that some departments were willing to share the site with the SWD. Also, she wished to learn more about the details of inter-departmental cooperation. Besides, she supported the dedicated efforts made for the voluntary work and hoped that the SWD would provide more information for Members to help the SWD to promote the voluntary work, in particular, the residential service for children. She believed that the high-income earners of the housing estates in Tsuen Wan West would find this service attractive. She thought that the SWD could display posters at the lobbies of the respective housing estates and provide the relevant information in order to increase the chance of successful recruitment of volunteers. Moreover, she opined that the social welfare applicants should undergo vetting so as to ensure the proper use of public funds, even though the Government Treasury had recorded surpluses. Meanwhile, the use of retirement fund could be explored further.

14. Mr WONG Ka-wa stated that the team of District Social Welfare Officer (Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing) of the SWD visited Lei Muk Shue Estate frequently, worked together with Members and was concerned about the facilities in the Estate. He opined that the SWD, however, should provide more resources for Lei Muk Shue. He pointed out that a service centre under Caritas provided the child care services for Lei Muk Shue Estate under the limited resources allocated by the SWD. As such, the service centre provided not more than 30 service places. He believed that it was probably due to the limited area of the service centre. As most of the residents in Lei Muk Shue Estate were the grassroots, he enquired whether the SWD would enhance the service places of the child care services. In addition, a student committed suicide recently. He learnt that many students sought help from the school social worker, but the school social worker was not stationed at the same school for a whole week. He hoped that the SWD would increase the number of school social workers in order to relieve the pressure of the youth centres. Moreover, he pointed out that there were many elderly residents in Lei Muk Shue Estate. Some of them were still unable to get a place from the residential care home for the elderly until they passed away. Hence, he hoped that the SWD would increase the number of the residential care homes for the elderly, for example, through vacating spaces from the land in the land sale and property redevelopment plans for the use of social welfare organisations.

15. Mr LAM Faat-kang said comparatively, there was an aging population in Tsuen Wan district. He was also concerned about the elderly services and was of the view that the elderly services should be provided through a multi-pronged approach. He was a Christian and would visit the aged homes from time to time. He learnt that the ordinary life of some elder people living in the aged homes seemed unappealing. Hence, he suggested that the SWD should launch the aging-in-place scheme by providing allowance for the families to employ the helpers to take care of the elderly at home, so that the elderly could live a life of dignity and the problem of undersupply of the places of residential care homes for the elderly could be resolved. He pointed out that traditionally, when the elderly lived in their native places, the relatives and friends or neighbours living nearby would take care of the elderly and vice versa. Hence, he strived for the implementation of “Fujian Scheme” and “Guangdong Scheme” and was pleased to note that the SWD implemented the “Fujian Scheme”. In addition, he supported the SWD’s volunteer scheme and was once a member of the scheme. He had also promoted the scheme in his constituency area and later successfully organised a group of volunteers devoting in the voluntary work in the community. Recently, a prize of loving care housing estate was awarded by the SWD.

16. Mr KOO Yeung-pong stated that the SWD provided a wide spectrum of services with the large quantitative service output that covered all age groups. He learnt that the SWD intended to lodge application for creation of social welfare service unit at the site of the former Tsuen Wan Magistrates’ Courts. He pointed out that as the land resource was very precious, it was hoped that the SWD would accept local residents’ views and take the lead in introducing various services for the public. Besides, he expressed concern over the youth suicides of late. He opined that it was relatively difficult to increase the number of the school social workers; instead, he suggested that the SWD should provide parents with trainings to take up volunteers through the parent teacher associations in order to facilitate the communication

between the schools and students. He also appreciated the Government for the implementation of the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities, so that the elderly could have fun anywhere. He thus enquired if \$2 swimming pool admission fee concession scheme would be put in place.

17. Mr MAN Yu-ming said that the teams of District Social Welfare Officer (Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing) and Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing)³ of the SWD performed fairly well in providing sufficient support for Tsuen Wan district. He stated that the population of Tsuen Wan was 300 000, but there were only 100 service places of child care services. It looked so gloomy. Although some of the nursery schools in his constituency area provided child care services, it was still very difficult for the residents to identify the suitable child care services. Hence, he opined that the SWD should conduct a study on handling this matter through inter-departmental collaboration and hoped that the Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB) and relevant departments would deliberate providing the child care services by taking active consideration of the provision of child care services at the locations of elderly services centres. Besides, the population in public housing estates in Tsuen Wan district became increasingly aged. He opined that aging at home had become a social trend and there was a great demand for it. Therefore, he was of the view that the SWD could enhance the existing measures such as the community support network service which was launched jointly by the LWB and Housing Department (HD) through visits to the families of singleton or disabled elderly and the disadvantaged families by making use of the HD's information in hand. This did not only help coping with their needs timely, but also avert the risk of breaching the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance. He believed that the resumption of the social support network service would be conducive to the prevention of recurrence of the incidents of the two elder people being found passing away in their residence by following the trace of the ordour from their dead bodies in his constituency area recently. He also suggested that the HD should play a coordinating role and put forth the service without unnecessary waste of resources. He added that the volunteer scheme was a favourable activity that deserved to be promoted because it provided a cultivation and spiritual sustenance for the participants of all ages.

18. The Director of Social Welfare responded as follows:

- (1) alike the SWD and LWB which proposed the reservation of spaces for social welfare purpose for each new development project and private development plan, other government departments also made the requests for acquisition of sites for their respective services. The SWD noted that there was a need of creation of more locations of social welfare facilities. Hence, the SWD had made requests for the facilities required among various new development plans, including the site of the former Tsuen Wan Magistrates' Courts at its planning stage and would continue to strive for it. Meanwhile, the SWD, as one of the government departments, understood that the commitments from other policy areas had to be fulfilled. The SWD would continue to maintain communication with the PD or Government Property Agency and other relevant departments and timely conduct the full-scale district-based

- consultations;
- (2) the Government had implemented the LSGSS since 2001 and appointed the Lump Sum Grant Independent Review Committee (the Committee) to conduct a full review on the LSGSS in 2008. During the review, the Committee had received opinions from various stakeholders, met the relevant organisations and engaged a consultant to conduct a study. After making analysis on the views gauged, the Committee ascertained that the principles of LSGSS were sound, therefore the system was worth retaining, and every effort should be made by stakeholders to improve it. In fact, the Government had all along been reviewing and enhancing the LSGSS from time to time in the past, including the additional recurrent provision of \$470 million in 2014-15 to enhance the central administration and supervisory support and provide assistance for the subvented organisations in recruitment and retention of healthcare personnel effectively. In addition, the latest Annual Financial Reports and Review Reports on Remuneration Packages for Staff in the Top Three Tiers of the subvented organisations had been uploaded to the SWD's website for public access starting from 2016-17 in order to enhance the transparency on their use of public funds and public accountability. Continued discussions on persistent enhancement of the LSGSS would be held together with the stakeholders;
 - (3) the SWD had purchased places from the two residential care homes run by the NGOs of Hong Kong in Zhaoqing and Shenzhen respectively in order to provide an option for the elderly on the Central Waiting List for subsidised residential care places who were willing to live in the Mainland after retirement through making applications to the SWD;
 - (4) the SWD aimed to help people of different needs through various social security schemes. Currently, the non-means-tested Old Age Allowance was implemented in order to assist the elderly in coping with the special needs arising from old age. On the other hand, the elderly with financial needs who intended to receive the higher allowance should undergo the means test in order to ensure that those with financial needs would be offered help within limited financial means. From the perspective of allocation of social resources, the elderly with economic capability did not need to receive the higher OALA. The SWD had relaxed the asset limits of the eligible persons so that more elderly would be benefitted;
 - (5) the SWD would increase the number of service places of the Pilot Scheme on Relaxing the Household Income Limit of the Fee-waiving Subsidy Scheme under the After School Care Programme for Low-income Families and Increasing Fee-waiving Subsidy Places through the Community Care Fund, given that sufficient physical spaces were provided by the service organisations. The SWD would continue to provide support for the families with financial difficulties in need of the after school care service by extension of the targets benefitted from the Pilot Scheme to cover the families with household income from more than 75% to 100% of the Median Monthly Domestic Household Income;
 - (6) the SWD hoped that Members would furnish the SWD with the information of the above-mentioned CSSA applications, street sleepers

and cases of making access to obtain the home care services for follow-up;

- (7) the Government had all along been concerned about the issue of street sleepers. Under the target of providing support for street sleepers, concerted efforts and collaboration from the SWD, various departments and bureaux were sought to provide support for the street sleepers. The SWD cared about the welfare needs of the street sleepers and had engaged three NGOs to provide social welfare support service for street sleepers. The SWD hoped that the family, financial or psychological problems of the street sleepers would be solved through providing support for them. In order to cope with the urgent and short-term accommodation needs of street sleepers, the SWD had all along provided subsidies for the NGOs to operate the hostels for single persons and emergency shelters which served as an interim arrangement for street sleepers in the course of getting a long-term accommodation (including the public housing applications). Some of the street sleepers were probably allocated a public housing flat but they lived on the street due to different reasons. The SWD would provide follow-up service as appropriate according to the needs of different cases. However, as the situation and needs varied from case to case, the SWD would provide welfare assistance as appropriate according to the situation of each individual case;
- (8) the SWD would foster the discussion of the feasibility on parent trainings on volunteer service to express concern and give support to students through the Steering Committee on Promotion of Volunteer Service or relevant working groups;
- (9) currently, the SWD had set up the SWD Elderly Information Website with a search function. Also, the SWD planned to update the existing website of volunteer service so as to facilitate the general public to search the opportunities of various types of volunteer service across the territory. The SWD shared the view that promotion of volunteer service should be enhanced at the district level; and
- (10) to align with the Government's policy on "aging in place as the core", the SWD expected to provide service such as meal delivery, cleaning and rehabilitation for the needy elderly who were aging in place. In the past two years, the SWD had provided the the living allowance for the eligible carers of the elderly to relieve their financial burden and enable them to save more time for taking care of the elderly.

19. Mr CHAN Yuen-sum, Sumly said recently, there was media coverage that some elderly were abused, indecently assaulted or raped. He hoped that the SWD would strengthen the monitoring of the residential care homes. He also enquired how the SWD carried out inspection and monitoring on its own initiative so as to prevent the recurrence of these incidents. He added that the residential care homes involved would safeguard their reputations upon the incidents came under the spotlight, perhaps, by sheltering their staff after the incidents happened.

20. The Director of Social Service added that since the occurrence of the Cambridge Nursing Home incident till present, the SWD had gradually carried out

various improvement measures to enhance the monitoring of the residential care homes and elevate the quality of their service. The duties in the residential care homes involved humankind. Such incidents would probably occur due to a colleague staff making mistakes. Therefore, it could not be ensured that no similar incident would happen again even though the SWD had strengthened the monitoring and inspections of the residential care homes. The SWD's Licensing Office of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly had devised the action plans against the irregularities of individual residential care homes on top of the general inspection mechanism. Moreover, the SWD had planned the specially designed training programme for the industry in order to enhance the competence of the home managers and staff of the residential care homes and explored to introduce professional qualification requirements for newly recruited home managers in order to enhance their competence of the management of residential care homes. In addition, the SWD had set up a working group comprising of the membership from nine parties so as to review the respective laws and regulations as well as the codes of practice, identify the areas for improvements and tender substantive proposals.

21. Ms LAM Yuen-pun, Phyllis stated that not many kindergartens or nursery schools in Tsuen Wan district were committed to offering places to the school children with special needs. The kindergartens or nursery schools offering places to these school children encountered great obstacles and some teachers quit because they were unable to adapt to the situation. She pointed out that the SWD had provided assistance for the respective kindergartens or nursery schools starting from this year, but only the school children of K1 were under assistance. The school children of K2 and K3 were not covered. Thus, she hoped that the SWD would also provide assistance for the school children of K2 and K3. Besides, following the aging trend of the housing estates, there would be a pressing demand for the elderly services centres. Again, she would like to strive for the provision of elderly services centre, child care centre and crèche in Tsuen King Circuit Market. She believed that there were sufficient spaces in the site of Tsuen King Circuit Market for provision of the respective services.

22. Mr LO Siu-kit commended the teams of the District Social Welfare Officer (Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing) and Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing)³ of the SWD for providing sufficient information and conducting the district work properly. He pointed out that he noted from the meeting of the Community Building, Planning and Development Committee earlier that only three departments had shown intention to the application of the use of the site of the former Tsuen Wan Magistrates' Courts. He thought that it was not necessary to explore the intention and plans of other department; instead, the direct use of the site by the SWD, Department of Health (DH) and Transport Department (TD) would be deemed to be more appropriate because, as he pointed out that, the SWD and DH provided service for the residents in Tsuen Wan district and the TD was expected to provide more parking spaces in each new development project. Thus, he believed that Members would not raise objection to this. He further pointed out that according to the PD, a three-to-four-storey facility building would be constructed at the site. He hoped that the height of the facility building would be increased for better use of the land. Moreover, as the land in the vicinity of the site was well developed, the landscape would not be affected by a facility building of greater height. Besides, as there was a

pressing demand for elderly and child care services in Tsuen Wan district, it was hoped that the SWD would provide the respective service at the site and conduct a study on manpower arrangement and training carefully; otherwise, the facilities would not be fully utilised when recruitment of qualified candidates for the positions was not completed.

23. The Chairman thanked the Director of Social Welfare for visiting the TWDC and giving response to Members' enquiries. Also, he believed that the team of District Social Welfare Officer (Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing) of the SWD would make efforts to assist Members in solving problems. The SWD was requested to promote the volunteer service with the Members who had indicated interest in the matter. At last, he applauded the staff of the SWD for working hard and facing challenges at work under the shortage of manpower. He hoped that the SWD would help achieving the expected outcome for the elderly services.

(Note: Mr LI Hung-por left the meeting at 4:05 p.m.)

V Item 4: Briefing on Work Plan of the Yan Chai Hospital

24. The Chairman said that Yan Chai Hospital (YCH) would introduce its annual work plan to Members every year. The representative from the YCH attending the meeting was Dr CHING Wai-kuen, Hospital Chief Executive.

(Note: The Hon CHAN Han-pan, Ben joined the meeting at 4:08 p.m.)

25. Hospital Chief Executive of the YCH introduced the work plan of the YCH in 2017/18. He stated that as there was currently no cardiac catheterisation inspection room at the YCH, the patients would be arranged to receive intervention treatments such as percutaneous coronary intervention or cardiac catheterisation at the Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH). The medical practitioners of the YCH would continue to follow up the condition of the patients after the respective treatment or inspection was completed. A team of cardiologists and nurses of the YCH provided the cardiac service and the urgent or severe cases of heart disease were handled by the hospitals under the larger clusters. Under the existing service planning of the clusters, the PMH would provide treatments for more patients with heart disease and handle a greater number of urgent cases of heart disease. The PMH provided service for the hospitals including the YCH under the West Kowloon Hospital Cluster through its cardiac catheterisation inspection room. The respective service quota of the West Kowloon Hospital Cluster would be increased in 2017/18.

26. Mr CHOW Ping-tim opined that the YCH should further enhance its cardiac service because percutaneous coronary intervention was not provided for patients even though the YCH was manned by sufficient healthcare personnel. It was undesirable. He pointed out that as the PMH was quite far away from Tsuen Wan, a patient suffering from a heart attack might not be able to survive it until he was taken to the PMH for treatment and the golden hour for saving the patient's life might also be missed. If the YCH could triage or enhance its cardiac service, the members of the public of Tsuen Wan district would be benefitted on the whole. He hoped that given the availability of resources and space, the YCH would provide the primary cardiac service in collaboration with the PMH. He added that as there was a risk of

suffering from heart disease among the citizens, he hoped that the YCH would enhance the cardiac service at the district level.

27. Ms LAM, Lam Nixie enquired the YCH about the measures for the upcoming peak time of the influenza and what Members could do to provide assistance for it. She pointed out that there was a severe summer influenza season this year. Hence, she wished to learn about the corresponding measures as early as possible in order to help protect the residents in Tsuen Wan from the winter influenza season.

28. Mr KOO Yeung-pong said that the YCH had benefitted Tsuen Wan and the general public in Hong Kong through its service for the past 50 years. Also, the YCH provided the more comprehensive service after the commissioning of its new building, so that more residents could use the service of the YCH. Recently, an elder person who frequently sought medical treatments from the YCH relayed to him that there was no taxi stand at the YCH. He pointed out that the elder people with impaired mobility could take a taxi to the YCH for medical treatments. However, when they left the hospital, they needed to walk to the Panda Hotel for a taxi. He also pointed out that even though the YCH was situated at the town centre, there was no taxi stand in the hospital. He hoped that the YCH would study the feasibility on provision of a taxi stand at the YCH.

29. Mr MAN Yu-ming stated that the service of the YCH attained a significantly satisfactory standard and was indispensable to Tsuen Wan district. He noted that recently, an elder person was referred to the PMH for treatment after he was diagnosed with cancer when seeking medical consultation from the YCH. As the elder person preferred the Chinese medicine treatment, he opted to receive the Chinese medicine treatment from the YCH before undergoing the chemotherapy. He said that the elder people had a belief and confidence in the Chinese medicine treatment. He hoped that the YCH would strengthen the Chinese medicine service and medical research on Chinese cum Western treatments.

30. Mr LAM Faat-kang said that the YCH provided comprehensive service for Tsuen Wan with continued enhancement on its facilities. The waiting time for the orthopedics service of the YCH was very long because the service was renowned as one of the best in town. He pointed out that a citizen lost mobility due to the deformation of both of his lower limbs. However, due to the limited resources, the citizen needed to wait over a year for the orthopedics service of the YCH. He thus enquired whether the YCH could allocate more resources to shorten the patients' waiting time for specialist services.

31. Hospital Chief Executive of the YCH responded as follows:

- (1) the YCH sought the PMH's assistance regularly for provision of service to the patients with heart disease because there was not any cardiac catheterisation inspection room in the YCH;
- (2) the YCH would pay close attention to the number of patients and whether the support from the PMH had reached its limit. Also, the YCH would discuss the provision of the catheterisation inspection room with the Hospital Authority (HA);

- (3) regarding the measures for the peak time of the influenza, Members could remind the residents to pay attention to daily selfcare and receive influenza vaccination. Given the shortage in healthcare personnel, the YCH would adopt various initiatives such as the additional allocation of resources to pay for the healthcare personnel who worked overtime while their personal status were not affected and recruitment of additional manpower from other workplaces for provision of assistance;
- (4) the YCH was currently making preparations for the surge in service demand during winter. The YCH would spare no efforts in getting well-prepared in summer 2018 for prevention of the occurrence of severe summer influenza season like that in 2017;
- (5) the YCH had received the resident's suggestion on provision of a taxi stand. After reviewing the road outside the Accident and Emergency (A&E) Room, it was found that it was difficult to provide a taxi stand at the said location because there was limited space near the A&E Room of the YCH. Yet, the YCH would seek advice from the TD on the feasibility on provision of a taxi stand outside the area of the YCH and conduct a further study on the suggestion;
- (6) the YCH noted that many patients had a preference for the Chinese medicine treatment and the Board of Directors of the YCH also attached importance to it. Besides the Chinese medicine clinics of the YCH, there were three Chinese medicine centres under the same cluster. Apart from providing treatment for general conditions, two of these Chinese medicine centres also provided the Chinese cum Western services, so that cancer patients could receive the Chinese cum Western medical treatments. The YCH would study and discuss with the Board of Directors of the YCH as to whether the Chinese medicine services of the YCH could be enhanced;
- (7) the YCH performed 500 hip arthroplasties on average every year and had been dedicating to studying the measures to increase the quantity of orthopedics operations, e.g. to vacate the hospital beds by early discharge of inpatients through provision of physiotherapy treatments for them as soon as possible. In light of the aging population, the commonly-seen cases included the serious degeneration in the knees of the elderly. The YCH would arrange check-up appointments for patients in urgent need as soon as practicable and other patients should wait according to the normal procedures. Ten years ago, the HA had prepared for making application to the Government for provision of resources to set up five Joint Replacement Centres in order to expedite the waiting time for operations. As there were too many patients, the elderly generally had to wait three to four years or even a longer period before they could receive the knee replacement operation despite the fact that the YCH had performed 500 hip arthroplasties annually and the Joint Replacement Centres of other clusters had also offered the same type of service;
- (8) with a view to striving for provision of better service within restrictions, the operation for both lower limbs of the patient could be conducted at one go in the YCH currently with the aid of the navigation system in place under the assistance of the medical practitioners with refined surgical skills. But the waiting time for the operation could not be

- shortened substantially for the time being; and
- (9) the YCH would seek for more options for the care of the elderly in need. The YCH would arrange its family doctors for provision of treatment to the elderly whose orthopedic conditions were not to be managed by operations. The family doctors would also examine other physical problems for the elderly in order to shorten their waiting time. If the family doctors considered that the elderly should receive operation after the treatment, the elderly would be referred to wait in the “priority queue” of the orthopedics service. The elderly would receive treatment from orthopedics specialists after waiting for about two months.

32. The Chairman stated that the YCH offered outstanding services and it would be even better if a cardiac catheterisation inspection room could be provided. Hence, he hoped that the YCH would explore the measures for it. He learnt that the YCH was aware of the needs of the patients with kidney disease and set up Yan Chai Hospital Lobo Law Foundation Renal Dialysis Centre at Riviera Gardens. Also, he pointed out that the TWDC had received a number of emails from a citizen who requested for the provision of a cardiac catheterisation inspection room at the YCH. He pointed out that currently, the referrals of cardiac operations to the PMH and Grantham Hospital were made by the YCH. But some day, the support from the PMH would reach its limit. Thus, he opined that the HA and the Board of Directors of the YCH should consider providing a cardiac catheterisation inspection room in the YCH, so that the patients would undergo treatments in the district and it was also conducive to helping the residents of Tsuen Wan district and the general public over the territory.

33. Hospital Chief Executive of the YCH added that the YCH had given due consideration upon receiving the request from the citizen. The YCH would pay close attention to the demand of the respective services and make early planning for provision of the services. Also, the YCH would relay Members’ suggestions to the HA and Hospital Governing Committee of the YCH.

34. The Chairman thanked Hospital Chief Executive of the YCH for attending the meeting.

VI Item 5: Progress Report on Major Works in Tsuen Wan (as at 31 August 2017)
(TWDC Paper No. 66/17-18)

35. The Chairman stated that the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) regularly reported the progress of the major works in Tsuen Wan district. The representative from the department attending the meeting was Mr TSANG Lap-kei, Freddie, Senior Engineer/2 (NTW), CEDD.

36. Senior Engineer/2 (NTW) of the CEDD introduced the paper.

37. Mr LO Siu-kit enquired about the timetable for Head 705 Subhead 5101CX – Greening Master Plan for the New Territories – A Study. Besides, he pointed out that the document of 743TH – Tsuen Wan Bypass, widening of Tsuen Wan Road at Tsuen Tsing Interchange, and associated junction improvement works indicated that

“according to the traffic statistics in 2015, the traffic volumes along Tsuen Wan Road were comparable to those in 2014.” However, in his impression, the Highways Department (HyD) had also conducted a traffic statistics in 2016. Hence, he hoped that the HyD would provide the relevant data in the paper next time, so that Members could make a comparison.

38. The Hon CHAN Han-pan, Ben said that no progress was made for the Advance Works, Stage 1 and Stage 2 Works of 268RS – Cycle Track between Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun. He enquired if the Government could provide the latest news of the project. He also enquired about the progress of Head 705 Subhead 5101CX – Greening Master Plan for the New Territories – A Study because no progress was made after the departments had conducted a number of consultations. In addition, he was concerned about 743TH – Tsuen Wan Bypass, widening of Tsuen Wan Road at Tsuen Tsing Interchange, and associated junction improvement works. He pointed out that he had reservation over the document which indicated that the data collected in 2014 was comparable to those in 2015 because the number of traffic accidents had increased substantially after the HyD collected the data in 2014. He added that as the population in the New Territories West would be on the surge rapidly in the next few years and so would the population in Tsuen Wan, the widening works should be considered before the in-take of the residential flats and occurrence of traffic congestions. It was noted that some localities in the district held opposite views on the project, but the traffic congestion problem in the vicinity of Tai Chung Road and Texaco Roundabout would be deteriorated if the widening works for Tsuen Wan Bypass was not carried out and the number of entrances and exits of Tsuen Wan Bypass was not increased. Therefore, he hoped that the 743TH project would be examined in detail by Members together with the relevant departments at the meeting of the Traffic and Transport Committee (T&TC) in due course.

39. Mr LAM Faat-kang stated that currently, the progress rate of 461RO – Signature Project Scheme (Tsuen Wan District) – Redevelopment of Sai Lau Kok Garden was only 16%. However, one-third of the project should have been completed under the ratio of the project scale to its duration. He thus enquired whether there were any difficulties in the project; and whether the progress of the project would be affected.

40. Mr WONG Ka-wa said that 424RO – Ecological Park had been discussed during the two terms of the District Council consecutively. It was hoped that an ecological park would be built to attract more visitors. As for 743TH – Tsuen Wan Bypass, widening of Tsuen Wan Road at Tsuen Tsing Interchange, and associated junction improvement works, there were traffic congestions in many places in Tsuen Wan. If the widening works for Tsuen Wan Bypass was not carried out and the number of the entrances and exits of Tsuen Wan Bypass was not increased, the traffic congestions would become more deteriorated due to the in-take of residential flats of newly-built properties in the future. He hoped that the Government would prepare for the anticipation of the future status and it would be too late to study for the solutions after the problems occurred.

41. Senior Engineer/2 (NTW) of the CEDD responded as follows:
(1) the stipulation of Head 705 Subhead 5101CX – Greening Master Plan for

the New Territories – A Study had just been completed at the end of 2016 since it started in 2012. After that, the respective work for putting forward the project according to the established procedures would be conducted, including the application for allocation of resources and preparation for tenders. The latest progress of the project would be reported in the paper in the future;

- (2) as for 743TH – Tsuen Wan Bypass, widening of Tsuen Wan Road at Tsuen Tsing Interchange, and associated junction improvement works, the HyD had time and again explained the progress of the project, and indicated in the reports that it was expected that Members' concerns would be addressed and Members' views would be sought at the meeting of the T&TC in the fourth quarter of 2017. The CEDD would relay Members' concerns to the HyD for further action as soon as possible;
- (3) the CEDD would convey Members' request on provision of the previous traffic statistics and data in detail in the next report to the HyD and TD;
- (4) the CEDD had all along been following up on 268RS – Cycle Track between Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun and would make reports at the meetings of the Coastal Affairs Committee (CAC). Members' views would also be sought at the meetings of the CAC. Currently, the CEDD was making application for allocation of resources to take forward the Advance Works. It was hoped that Members would be informed of the latest news shortly; and
- (5) the information on the progress of 461RO – Signature Project Scheme (Tsuen Wan District) – Redevelopment of Sai Lau Kok Garden was provided by the department concerned before the TWDC meeting. The CEDD would check over the information for further confirmation. The progress rate of the project was 4% six months ago. According to the Architectural Services Department (Arch SD), in the initial stage of the project, the contractor had to prepare for the submission of the documents required to the Arch SD, including the project schedule on progress, safety plan and proposal on works procedures. Hence, the completion rate in the initial stage of the project generally remained at a low level. It indicated in the existing report that tree removal and planting, installation of street hoarding and demolition of spiral staircase had been completed one after the other. In addition, the installation works for the drinking water mains had also been completed. It was believed that the completion rate of the project would go up in the following few months.

42. District Leisure Manager (Tsuen Wan) of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) responded that the Planning Section of the LCSD was reviewing 424RO – Ecological Park project and would conduct the follow-up work as soon as possible.

43. Mr CHOW Ping-tim stated that he was dissatisfied with the slow progress and even a halt for the Advance Works of 268RS – Cycle Track between Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun. He pointed out that the commencement of Stage 1 project was unforeseeable. He thus strongly requested the relevant departments that the Advance Works should not be carried out whereas no progress was made for Stage 1 project, even though the funding allocation was made; otherwise, the development of Tsuen

Wan district would be screwed up. Besides, he opined that the progress of the projects 162TB (Bridge A), 145TB (Bridges B & C) and 164TB (Bridge D) – Extension of Footbridge Network in Tsuen Wan was slow. He pointed out that the convenor of the working group concerned, representatives from the TD and Po On Commercial Association Wong Siu Ching Secondary School had discussed the details and progress of alignment options of Footbridge B. However, no progress was made for other routes, including the connection from Luen Yan Street to Yeung Uk Road, the broken bridge at Bo Shek Mansion and New Haven. He enquired the departments about the reasons for failure to provide the details of the respective progress; and whether the discontinuation of extension of footbridge network for years was due to the objection from New Haven which was the only housing estate that raising objection to the project. He thought that the footbridge network should connect Tsuen Wan MTR Station and Tsuen Wan West MTR Station without breaking apart at New Haven. He supported that the footbridge network project should be kept on-going; otherwise it would be unfair to the residents whose housing estates lacked the footbridge connection.

44. Ms LAM Yuen-pun, Phyllis said she learnt that the Government had stipulated the Landslip Prevention and Mitigation Programme. She thus enquired whether the Government had also stipulated a slope monitoring and alert mechanism for private housing estates, so that the relevant parties could carry out the slope maintenance work once for every five years and submit the report after completion of the slope maintenance work. Besides, she stated that the TWDC had discussed 189WC – Stage 4 of Phase 2 of Replacement and Rehabilitation of Water Mains in 2015. She thought that the project had been completed but later, she came to realise that many water pipes in Tsuen Wan district were still pending for replacement. She thus enquired whether all the water pipes in Tsuen Wan would be replaced and rehabilitated when Stage 4 of Phase 2 project was completed in December 2018; and whether it was particularly difficult to handle the areas pending for the project. She hoped that the departments concerned would announce the relevant information early before the project commenced for Members' reference.

45. Senior Engineer/2 (NTW) of the CEDD responded as follows:

- (1) the CEDD noted Members' views on 268RS – Cycle Track between Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun. It was hoped that the cycle track project would be taken forward in phases by adoption of the approach of “resolving the simple issues before the difficult ones”;
- (2) the CEDD believed that the minutes of meeting on 162TB (Bridge A), 145TB (Bridges B & C) and 164TB (Bridge D) – Extension of Footbridge Network in Tsuen Wan would be provided in due course. The CEDD would relay the Member's concern on New Haven to the HyD;
- (3) the CEDD would relay the Member's enquiry on stipulation of a slope monitoring and alert mechanism for private housing estates to the Geotechnical Engineering Office which was responsible for slope maintenance; and
- (4) the CEDD would also relay the Member's enquiry on whether all the water pipes in Tsuen Wan would be replaced and rehabilitated when Stage 4 of Phase 2 project was completed in December 2018 to the Water

Supplies Department (WSD), so that the WSD could give response in detail.

46. The Chairman stated that the respective committees under the TWDC had been furnished with the information of the relevant projects. The relevant departments were requested to give response at the meetings of the respective committees under the TWDC.

(Post-meeting note: The CEDD submitted the information of the relevant projects on 10 November 2017. The relevant documents were distributed to Members for perusal.)

VII Item 6: Request to Early Review on the Availability of School Places in Tsuen Wan District in Meeting the Demand of School Children Studying in their Home District

(TWDC Paper No. 67/17-18)

47. The Chairman stated that Mr KOO Yeung-pong and the Hon CHAN Han-pan, Ben submitted the paper. The representatives from the Education Bureau (EDB) responsible for giving response were:

- (1) Mrs TSANG CHAN Mi-fong, Chief School Development Officer (Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing); and
- (2) Ms LAM Lai-fong, Bubi, Senior School Development Officer (Tsuen Wan)².

48. Mr KOO Yeung-pong introduced the paper.

49. Chief School Development Officer (Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing) of the EDB responded as follows:

- (1) the EDB had all along been paying attention to the demand for school places in Tsuen Wan. It was anticipated that the overall demand for public sector Primary One (P1) places would increase temporarily to the projected peak in the 2018/19 school year and then progressively decrease to a stable level. During the transitional period, the EDB would adopt the flexible measures to meet the increase in demand for P1 places in individual districts for stable development, including using vacant classrooms, converting rooms of other purposes into additional classrooms, expanding temporary classrooms where necessary or borrowing places from other districts;
- (2) in 2016, in order to meet the demand for P1 places, the EDB had already temporarily allocated more students for School Net 62 (Tsuen Wan) and the number of students in a class was increased from 25 to 30 in some schools of small class teaching; and
- (3) the EDB was aware that currently, a number of private housing estates were under construction in Tsuen Wan West. Moreover, a site had been reserved in Tsuen Wan West for the construction of a primary school with 30 classrooms. The EDB was currently taking forward the preliminary work for the construction works of the primary school according to the established mechanism and procedures. The EDB would also make funding application to the Legislative Council (LegCo) timely and

activate the School Allocation Exercise accordingly.

50. Ms LAM, Lam Nixie enquired whether the reserved site was somewhere near City Point. She said that the residents were very concerned about the issue of school places and hoped that the EDB would provide further information.

51. Mr TAM Hoi-pong said that the respective figures were not provided in the written reply of the EDB. He pointed out that the demand for school places over the territory would decline after reaching the peak in 2018. Some people were worried about the “reduction of classes” and “closure of schools”. He hoped that the EDB would provide the information about the school places in home district for school children after the meeting, so that Members could learn more about the actual supply and demand of school places.

52. Mr WONG Ka-wa said that there was an anticipated inadequate supply of school places and noted that a site was reserved for construction of a primary school in Tsuen Wan West. Also, he learnt that the demand for school places would decline after reaching the peak. As the Government currently implemented the targeted relief measures in secondary schools only, he hoped that the Government would also implement these measures in primary schools when the demand for school places declined from the peak. He pointed out that the new school premises redeveloped from the old primary schools such as “matchbox-style” schools were still found in shortage of school places for the school children living in the housing estates. Hence, he hoped that more school places would be provided by the newly-built primary school. He believed that the demand for school places from the residents of the newly-completed residential buildings in future could not be met through construction of only one primary school. Thus, he suggested that the EDB should stipulate a long-term plan to cope with the demand for school places.

53. Mr KOO Yeung-pong noted that a primary school would be built by the EDB. He enquired whether the premises and existing facilities of the primary schools which had ceased operation would be selected for the construction project. Moreover, he enquired whether the EDB would enhance the number of teachers and allocation of resources of the respective schools in response to the increased number of classes.

54. Mr LAM Faat-kang supported the proposal. He enquired whether the EDB had projected the peak and the subsequent decline of the demand for school places in the 2018/19 school year. Besides, he pointed out that many new arrivals lived in Tsuen Wan. He thus enquired whether the EDB had conducted a statistical survey on the number of students from these new-arrival families. He said the commissioning of a new school premises in Tsuen Wan district was a good thing, but a social problem would be triggered because it seemed that the parents who opted for admission to the newly-built schools for their children did not apply for admission to the “matchbox-style” schools in the district. Thus, he enquired how the EDB struck a balance between them and the respective handling mechanism.

(Note: Mr LO Siu-kit left the meeting at 5:15 p.m.)

55. The Hon CHAN Han-pan, Ben stated that there were mainly the new housing estates of small domestic units along the waterfront in Tsuen Wan. It was believed that the population would grow, followed by an increasing demand for school places in Tsuen Wan district. Hence, he hoped that the EDB would arrange and allocate the school places for the increased student population. He also suggested that the EDB should allocate the site originally planned for construction of the proposed school to the old schools of smaller size in Tsuen Wan district for redevelopment or rehousing of school premises. It did not only help realising the increased number of classes for the old schools, but also helped maintaining the operation of the newly-built schools when the demand for school places declined from the peak.

56. Mr WONG Ka-wa said that compared to the past, the provision of an additional school as currently proposed was still not enough for Tsuen Wan district because no school had ever been set up in the district for the past ten years and E.L.C.H.K. Tsuen Wan Lutheran School (Cheung Shan Estate) and Kwai Chung Public School had ceased operation. Besides, as there was an upward trend of studying in international schools in recent years, he hoped that the EDB would introduce an international school on the reserved school site, so that the school children could opt for studying in the international school.

57. Mr CHOW Ping-tim stated that about two years ago, he had submitted an agenda item to the TWDC for discussion on the demand for international schools in Tsuen Wan district. Yet, there was no information about the reserved school sites at that time. Also, according to the EDB, the respective forecast showed that there was no demand for international schools in the district in the next few years. He believed that in line with the current market demand, there was a tendency for the parents of the new generation to make arrangements for admission to the international schools for their children. Hence, he hoped that the EDB would consider the construction of an international school on the reserved site next to City Point or other vacant school sites.

(Note: Mr KOO Yeung-pong left the meeting at 5:21 p.m.)

58. The Vice Chairman agreed with Members' suggestions. He stated that there would be a continuous anticipated population growth in Tsuen Wan district. Given the higher birth rate in the year of a specified Chinese animal zodiac as well as the arrival of the children of the doubly non-permanent residents (DNRs) for pursuing studies in Hong Kong, there would be a peak demand for P1 school places in the district in the 2018/19 school year. As there were not many school children of the DNRs in Tsuen Wan district, the increase in number of school children after the peak time was natural increase. In the next few years, the increased population of Tsuen Wan West would be around 20 000. He hoped that the EDB would provide the information including the projected number of school-age children after the peak of population growth for reference. He learnt that there was a pressing demand for school places in Tsuen Wan district and opined that the EDB's current arrangement of borrowing school places from Tsing Yi for Tsuen Wan was undesirable. He suggested a preferable alternative that the school children were allocated to study in their home district. Hence, he opined that the EDB should activate the proposal on construction of a new primary school on the reserved site TW7 as soon as possible,

which was a threefold solution to meet the needs of the school children living in Tsuen Wan who studied in home district, improve the “matchbox-style” schools and address the problem of relocation of schools.

59. Chief School Development Officer (Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing) of the EDB responded as follows:

- (1) the proposed school was located at Wing Shun Street, Tsuen Wan near the West Rail Tsuen Wan Station. The EDB noted Members’ views on the construction of the new school as early as possible and was currently taking forward the work according to the established procedures;
- (2) according to the projections, the school-age population aged 6 in Tsuen Wan district was projected to increase by about 300 people from about 3 300 people in the 2017/18 school year to about 3 600 people in the 2018/19 school year and decrease to about 2 800 people in the 2019/20 school year. As the estimated population above was projected with a number of factors and assumptions, including the new housing estates, children of the DNRs and cross-boundary students, it was difficult to make a precise forecast on the actual figures. Yet, the population was estimated to decline considerably after reaching the peak;
- (3) the EDB was currently listening to the requests concerning the declining P1 population from various parties, including implementation of the targeted relief measures and by no means of “reduction of classes” or “closure of schools”. The EDB would further study and consider the requests;
- (4) the EDB would allocate the newly-built school premises in a fair and impartial manner. Any school sponsoring body interested in the new school premises could duly submit application to the EDB;
- (5) currently, all the newly-built school premises were under the new design and equipped with extensive facilities. Meanwhile, the EDB would provide assistance for the schools operating in “matchbox-style” premises in improving their facilities as far as practicable. However, the improvement works on school premises for some of these schools could not be carried out due to their locations and sizes. It was also difficult for the EDB to rehouse all the “matchbox-style” schools;
- (6) E.L.C.H.K. Tsuen Wan Lutheran School (Cheung Shan Estate) ceased operation owing to under-enrolment in the past. The EDB had invited the schools operating in sub-standard premises in Tsuen Wan district to indicate their preference on rehousing to the premises of E.L.C.H.K. Tsuen Wan Lutheran School (Cheung Shan Estate). However, negative response was drawn from these schools due to the location and transport link of E.L.C.H.K. Tsuen Wan Lutheran School (Cheung Shan Estate);
- (7) the EDB noted the demand for international schools in Tsuen Wan district. She would relay Members’ views to the EDB; and
- (8) the EDB had all along been paying attention to the demand for P1 school places in Tsuen Wan district. During the transitional period, one of the measures was to borrow school places from the neighbouring school nets. At present, the demand from school age children was fully met by the schools in Tsuen Wan district.

60. Mr TAM Hoi-pong stated that as Tsuen Wan district covered an extensive area, the school children living in Belvedere Garden had to travel a longer distance to go to schools in Tsing Yi, but the school children living in Ma Wan were able to study in their home district by going to schools in Tsing Yi. Hence, he opined that it was difficult to reach a conclusion on whether the practice of borrowing school places from Tsing Yi for Tsuen Wan district should be maintained and hoped that the EDB would give further consideration to it. Moreover, he thought that an international school could be set up in Tsuen Wan district but he hoped that the school sponsoring body would improve the relevant financial arrangements to avoid criticism.

61. Chief School Development Officer (Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing) of the EDB responded that Ma Wan was included in School Net 62 (Tsuen Wan) but Tsing Yi was not included in this school net. Yet, it could not be ruled out that some of the school children living in Ma Wan would be allocated places of the schools in Tsing Yi due to the practice of borrowing schools places from Tsing Yi for Ma Wan.

62. The Chairman requested the EDB to consider Members' suggestions and discuss the matter with Members after the meeting.

63. As the Chairman was required to take up other urgent matters, the meeting would be temporarily chaired by the Vice Chairman.

VIII Item 7: Request to Enhance the Services and Community Facilities for the South Asians in Tsuen Wan District

(TWDC Paper No. 68/17-18)

64. The Acting Chairman stated that Mr WONG Ka-wa and Mr CHAN Yuen-sum, Sumly submitted the paper. The representatives from the departments responsible for giving response were:

- (1) Mrs TSANG CHAN Mi-fong, Chief School Development Officer (Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing), EDB;
- (2) Ms LAM Lan-fong, Bubi, Senior School Development Officer (Tsuen Wan)2, EDB;
- (3) Ms CHIU Wing-lan, Margaret, District Commander (Tsuen Wan) (Acting), HKPF;
- (4) Ms LAU Chui-ying, Bo, Police Community Relations Officer (Tsuen Wan), HKPF;
- (5) Ms LUI Ka-wing, Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing)3, SWD;
- (6) Miss HUI Pui-yuk, Hermia, Senior Housing Manager (Wong Tai Sin, Tsing Yi & Tsuen Wan 2), HD; and
- (7) Miss LO Wai-yin, Phoenix, Senior Executive Officer (Planning)7 (Acting), LCSD.

Besides, the written replies of the SWD, LCSD and Labour Department were tabled at the meeting.

65. Mr CHAN Yuen-sum, Sumly introduced the paper.

66. Mr WONG Ka-wa stated that the Government did not allocate many resources on the care for the South Asians. The non-Chinese people also wished to

join the government departments, but only a few of them were employed because most of them failed to meet the requirement on the Chinese language proficiency. He pointed out that there were many South Asian residents in Lei Muk Shue Estate but the community facilities for these residents were inadequate. He had tried to borrow the community hall for the South Asians to pray during Ramadan but was turned down because all sessions of the community hall were booked. In daily life, the residents were affected by the South Asians who prayed in the parks. Therefore, they had to hide and pray. As he learnt that the HD had provided places in Tung Chung and Tin Shui Wai for the non-Chinese organisations to provide services for the South Asians, he thus submitted the paper to request the HD to provide a location in Lei Muk Shue Estate for provision of service for the South Asians from a non-Chinese organisation and offer a venue to the South Asians to perform their rituals customarily. He hoped that other departments would also provide the services for the South Asians.

(Note: The Hon CHAN Han-pan, Ben left the meeting at 5:44 p.m.)

67. Senior School Development Officer (Tsuen Wan)² of the EDB responded as follows:

- (1) starting from the 2014/15 school year, the EDB had provided an additional funding ranging from \$0.8 million to \$1.5 million every year for the schools admitting ten or more non-Chinese speaking (NCS) students to implement the Learning Framework and create an inclusive learning environment, with a view to enabling the NCS students to bridge over to mainstream Chinese Language classes as soon as possible;
- (2) the EDB also provided an additional funding of \$50,000 every year for the schools admitting less than ten NCS students on a need basis;
- (3) currently, there were four schools admitting ten or more NCS students and six schools admitting less than ten NCS students in Tsuen Wan district;
- (4) besides, in order to enhance the NCS students' studies and employability in future, starting from the 2014/15 school year, the NCS students at senior secondary level could study the Applied Learning Chinese (for non-Chinese speaking students) courses and the results would be recorded in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education. The EDB would provide a full subsidy for the schools to cover the costs of these courses;
- (5) also, the Standing Committee on Language Education and Research (SCOLAR) had provided the vocational Chinese language courses for NCS school leavers. Upon completion of the courses, the participants meeting the requirements on attendance and examinations could receive subsidy which partially covered the tuition fees;
- (6) moreover, the EDB had commissioned the Education University of Hong Kong to organise the five-week full-time course of Certificate in Professional Development Programme on the Teaching of Chinese Language for Non-Chinese Speaking Students in order to enhance the teachers' professional capability in teaching Chinese to NCS students. Furthermore, the EDB updated the supporting materials for teachers' use on its website from time to time. In addition, the SCOLAR had invited the local tertiary institutions to develop learning and teaching materials

- for NCS people;
- (7) the EDB encouraged the early integration of the NCS students into the community. Starting from the 2017/18 school year, the EDB had implemented the free quality kindergarten education policy and provided an additional grant comparable to the recommended salary of one kindergarten teacher for the kindergartens admitting eight or more NCS students; and
- (8) the Government had also provided various support services for the ethnic minorities, including commissioning non-profit-making organisations to operate six support service centres and two sub-centres for the ethnic minorities.

(Note: The Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael joined the meeting at 5:50 p.m.)

68. Senior Housing Manager (Wong Tai Sin, Tsing Yi & Tsuen Wan 2) of the HD responded as follows:

- (1) the HD regularly provided the SWD with a list of non-domestic premises in public housing estates available for welfare lettings to NGOs which provided social welfare services for the general public including the ethnic minorities; and
- (2) people of all races were welcome to use various types of recreational facilities in the public housing estates under the HD's purview. As the public housing estates in Tsuen Wan district were completed many years ago, there was no suitable location for provision of a cricket ground in the estates.

69. Senior Executive Officer (Planning)⁷ (Acting) of the LCSD responded as follows:

- (1) two venues for cricket activities under the LCSD's management in Tsuen Wan district, namely, Shek Pik Resettlers' Playground, Tsuen Wan and Tsuen Wing Street Playground, were available for booking within longer hours respectively from 7:00 a.m. or 6:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily; and
- (2) the LCSD noted Members' views on the provision of the additional cricket ground. The LCSD would consider the provision of the additional cricket ground if new facilities were planned in future.

70. District Leisure Manager (Tsuen Wan) of the LCSD responded as follows:

- (1) members of the public could hire Wo Yi Hop Road Sports Ground for cricket activities;
- (2) an area of 4.5 hectares in the former Kwai Chung Park in Kwai Tsing district was rented by the Hong Kong Cricket Association for cricket trainings and competitions. The area was large enough for formal practice on cricket. It was believed that the South Asians could use the facility. The LCSD would provide the relevant information for Members in due course;
- (3) in general, the activities involving batting posed a danger. The LCSD would select the well-exposed locations for provision of enclosed cricket grounds, so as to prevent casualties of passers-by arising from

- cricket-playing. Moreover, the cricket grounds under the LCSD's management solely for tape ball cricket activities were not suitable for any formal cricket activities. Tape ball was the tennis ball wrapped with plastic tapes for minimising the danger of this activity involving batting;
- (4) the cricket fun day were held for the public by the LCSD from time to time and a tape ball cricket fun day had been held in the basketball court at Kwok Shui Road; and
 - (5) the LCSD noted that South Asian children were fond of playing at skateboard grounds and would review the design of the skateboard ground in Kwok Shui Road Park.

71. Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing)³ of the SWD responded as follows:

- (1) on welfare service, all Hong Kong residents, regardless of their nationalities and races, were entitled to apply for the social welfare service, given that they had met the eligibility criteria and conditions;
- (2) the SWD understood that the South Asians were distinctive of their ethnicities and languages. Hence, when providing the social welfare service, the SWD would adopt various measures to facilitate the South Asians in access to the service;
- (3) apart from the Chinese and English versions, the leaflets about the major services of the SWD were published in six ethnic minority languages, inter alia, for the South Asians. The ethnic minorities could also access the information of various services on the SWD's website which provided the language options and webpages for them. The SWD would arrange interpretation service for the ethnic minorities, if necessary, to ensure that they understood the contents of the services and methods of application;
- (4) the SWD would relay the situation of the South Asian teenagers lingering in Lei Muk Shue Estate during late night as mentioned by Members to the relevant organisations. The SWD would request various parties to pay more attention to this and provide services as appropriate; and
- (5) the SWD would also relay Members' view on the provision of different activities for the South Asians by social welfare organisations to the relevant organisations.

72. Ms LAM, Lam Nixie opined that currently, there was a problem of inadequate services and facilities for South Asians. Besides, she opined that the ethnic minorities living in Hong Kong faced a difficult problem of using Chinese as the main language under the local education system. This problem had been discussed for years but the Government failed to provide additional support for the ethnic minorities. She suggested that the ethnic minority residents in Hong Kong should be allowed to use their mother tongue as the main language and the Chinese as the second language in order to show respect to their unique ethnic characteristics and languages. She pointed out that the ethnic minorities also encountered considerable difficulties in making application for admission to schools after they settled in Hong Kong and some of them reflected that their applications were rejected by certain schools. Moreover, she opined that the Government's support for the ethnic minority teenagers was also inadequate. Three years ago, she invited a local organisation to

construct a cricket ground at Belvedere Garden, but it fell through because the two-year tenancy term of the site was too short. She stated that it would be most ideal if the LCSD could meet the need of construction of a cricket ground given the problem of insufficient land in Tsuen Wan. She believed that some of the ethnic minorities probably did not know that there were LCSD's cricket grounds due to language barriers. Hence, she opined that the LCSD should promote the two existing cricket grounds in Tsuen Wan in other languages and provide the respective information for Members. She further pointed out that the Government had failed to truly address the needs of the ethnic minorities over the years. Only the Police had launched Project Gemstone for the non-Chinese people and she hoped that other departments would draw reference from it.

73. Mr WONG Ka-wa stated that many South Asians lived in Tsuen Wan town centre or the public housing estates in Tsuen Wan district. He suggested that the LCSD could convert the facilities of lower usage rates into cricket grounds or draw reference from the approaches adopted in other districts, such as creation of a temporary cricket ground on a school's rooftop for the South Asians to play cricket near their residence. Moreover, he enquired whether the SWD could enhance the resources for the organisations which provided services for the South Asians, such as Caritas Jockey Club Integrated Service for Young People - Lei Muk Shue in Lei Muk Shue Estate. He pointed out that the facilities for South Asians were inadequate in Tsuen Wan district. He hoped that the departments concerned would discuss with Members on the locations for construction of facilities after the meeting.

74. Mr CHAN Yuen-sum, Sumly stated that quite a number of South Asians were used to hanging out at the public housing estates during 7:00 p.m. or so and the midnight. He was pleased to note that the SWD would enhance the manpower to provide support for the South Asians. He also hoped that counselling service would be provided for the South Asians in order to prevent them from being exploited for criminal activities. He pointed out that when some of the South Asians hanging out at the non-recreational facilities were requested to leave by the Police or security staff, they seemed uncooperative and challenged the authority of the enforcement officers. He opined that the more effective communication strategies could be adopted by the Police, for example, through conversation with the South Asians instead of simply driving them away, organising more activities for the South Asians and arranging the South Asian police officers to be stationed at Tsuen Wan district for provision of services in Lei Muk Shue Estate, public housing estates nearby and Tsuen Wan town centre, in order to let the South Asians know that it was important to obey the law. Meanwhile, the South Asians could also participate in the healthful activities together with the police officers and social workers.

75. District Commander (Tsuen Wan) (Acting) of the HKPF responded as follows:

- (1) the Tsuen Wan Police District would create the connection with the non-Chinese teenagers through different channels, including the visits to schools, community centres and two Islamic centres in the district by the members of the Junior Police Call. A total of 121 non-Chinese teenagers joined the Junior Police Call in the first half of 2017. Besides, the Police had arranged visits as well as sports and group activities for

- the non-Chinese teenagers through the Junior Police Call; and
- (2) the HKPF had engaged a non-Chinese Police Community Liaison Assistant since September 2017. She would enhance engagement with the teenagers in different races in the district in due course.

76. Mr CHOW Ping-tim enquired on the number of South Asians in Tsuen Wan district, so as to see whether there was a pressing need for additional services and community facilities.

77. The Acting Chairman requested the departments concerned to note Members' views and further communicate with Members, with a view to providing more spaces for the activities of the South Asians. Besides, he stated that the departments could provide the supplementary information on the respective figures, if any, for Members' reference after the meeting.

IX Item 8: Request the Police to Make an All-out Effort to Track Down the Suspects of Animal Abuses and Increase the Resources to Set Up "Animal Police" and Enact Legislation for Animal Protection

(TWDC Paper No. 69/17-18)

78. The Acting Chairman stated that Ms LAM, Lam Nixie submitted the paper. The representatives from the departments responsible for giving response were:

- (1) Ms CHIU Wing-lan, Margaret, District Commander (Tsuen Wan) (Acting), HKPF;
- (2) Ms LAU Chui-ying, Bo, Police Community Relations Officer (Tsuen Wan), HKPF;
- (3) Dr CHAN Chi-ching, Jason, Veterinary Officer (Animal Management) New Territories North, Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD); and
- (4) Ms KHATTAK Nasreen, District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Tsuen Wan), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD).

Besides, the written replies of the Food and Health Bureau (FHB) and HKPF were tabled at the meeting.

79. Ms LAM, Lam Nixie introduced the paper.

80. District Commander (Tsuen Wan) (Acting) of the HKPF responded as follows:

- (1) the HKPF noted that the case of a dead Mongrel found in Sheung Yat Tsuen, Shing Mun Reservoir happened on 31 August 2017. The case was under investigation by the Crime Investigation Team of Tsuen Wan Police District. The HKPF would handle the case seriously and spare no efforts in conducting the investigation;
- (2) since October 2011, the HKPF had launched the Animal Watch Scheme through education, publicity, intelligence-gathering and investigation by taking a multi-agency approach in collaboration with the AFCD, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong) (SPCA), veterinary associations and animal concern groups, together with public participation, in combating the crimes of cruelty to animals;

- (3) currently, all cases of cruelty to animals would be referred to the Crime Investigation Team for investigation. Having sufficient manpower, the Crime Investigation Team was manned by experienced staff with professional skills in cracking down cases of cruelty to animals; and
- (4) the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Chapter 169) was the main legislation against cruelty to animals. The HKPF would face up to the matter and combat the respective crimes with other departments.

81. Veterinary Officer (Animal Management) New Territories North of the AFCD responded as follows:

- (1) it was stipulated in the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Chapter 169) that it was an offence to cause any unnecessary suffering to any animal by unreasonably doing or omitting to do any act. Also, it was stipulated in the Ordinance that it was an offence to beat, kick and over-terrify or threaten any animal. Besides, a general description on the respective unlawful acts was given in the Ordinance but each and every of the unlawful acts was not elaborated in detail;
- (2) starting from 2016, the AFCD had held at least 90 talks in collaboration with the SPCA and other organisations as well as organising the animal adoption day with other institutions, which aimed to promote the welfare of animals and educate the general public on the proper care of cats and dogs;
- (3) currently, the AFCD was formulating the codes on proper care of different animals including cats, dogs, rabbits and lizards. Some of the codes had already been uploaded to the AFCD's website for public reference; and
- (4) if there was a need to enhance the publicity and educational work on animal care, the organisation or school could contact the AFCD for arrangements.

82. Mr CHAN Yuen-sum, Sumly said that after the brutal killing of the animal took place at Shing Mun Reservoir, a number of dogs were poisoned to death near Shing Mun Reservoir. The animal abuse and killing occurred from time to time but not every single instance was reported by the media. He pointed out that the police officers of certain Police Districts such as Tsuen Wan Police District would handle the animal cruelty cases proactively out of their care for animals. However, the police officers of other Police Districts might not handle such cases in a proactive manner because they probably considered that the animal cruelty incidents were trivial and there were other outstanding cases to be dealt with. He opined that it would indirectly lead to an increased number of crimes of cruelty to animals and more innocent animals would be injured or killed. He stated that only after the enactment of an animal protection bill by the LegCo could the relevant enforcement officers be able to take enforcement actions in accordance with the laws. Hence, he hoped that the animal protection bill would be enacted as soon as possible. He further pointed out that animal abusers should receive education and the AFCD should also foster the public education on animal care, so that members of the public realised that keeping animals was a lifelong obligation. Also, they should think carefully before buying animals but should not randomly abandon and abuse animals. Moreover, he hoped that the Government would provide more premises for animal adoption in conjunction

with the NGOs, discourage the sale and purchase of animals among the general public and arrange animal adoption so as to provide a real protection to animals.

83. Mr TAM Hoi-pong supported setting up the animal police, strengthening the law enforcement work and enacting the animal protection bill. He also supported tackling the animal cruelty in Tsuen Wan district in a more proactive manner comparing with other districts. He pointed out that the depth of investigation would depend on the availability of resources. Hence, he hoped that the Police would coordinate or promote the relevant work internally and allocate more resources to the investigation of the animal abuse cases in Tsuen Wan district, so that the truth of the cases could be revealed through investigation.

84. Ms LAM, Lam Nixie stated that the animal protection bill was very important and Hong Kong could introduce legislation by drawing reference to the relevant laws and regulations from other regions. As she learnt that the HKPF was restricted by limited resources, she suggested that the HKPF could make arrangements for the police officers who were fond of animals to join the investigation teams on a voluntary basis. Besides, she considered that the existing penalties for animal abusers were too lenient. Hence, she suggested that the Government should enhance the penalties as well as arranging the abusers to receive psychological counselling and attend the relevant compulsory courses. She pointed out that the operation of unlicensed animal breeding facilities was also an act of animal abuse. Hundreds of animals kept in the breeding facilities had already been maltreated for a long time even though they were saved afterwards. Hence, she hoped that the Government would set up a reporting hotline for animal abuse. She further pointed out that the population in Hong Kong was over 7 million and enquired on the attendance of the 90 talks organised by the AFCD. In addition, she opined that there was no school particularly in need of enhancement on education about animal care. Yet, the Government's overall publicity was inadequate. Also, she stated that as only a few organisations performed neutering surgeries for animals in Hong Kong and there were many stray animals, the Government's support on neutering stray animals was insufficient. She added that it was not specified in the Road Traffic Ordinance (Chapter 374) that the motorists were required to stop the vehicles and report to the Police immediately after hitting an animal. She thought that it was a legal loophole and enquired the Government on the reasons for no amendment was made to the Road Traffic Ordinance.

85. Mr CHAN Sung-ip said that many people were kind to animals. It was also an offence to threaten animals. He pointed out that currently, there were many animal keepers in Ma Wan but some dog owners who were not civic-minded would allow their dogs to foul next to other village houses. He thus enquired the AFCD whether the village house owners who scolded the dogs in this scenario committed an offence.

86. The Acting Chairman enquired the AFCD on the definition of the acts of threatening animals and the details of law enforcement work. Also, he requested the AFCD to provide the relevant information for Members' reference.

87. Veterinary Officer (Animal Management) New Territories North of the AFCD responded as follows:

- (1) the AFCD noted Members' aspiration of enactment of the animal protection bill. Currently, the animals being poisoned were under the protection of the existing legislation when there were sufficient evidence;
- (2) at present, the AFCD encouraged the members of the public to adopt the stray or abandoned animals caught by the AFCD through working together with other NGOs. Some of the animals such as dogs would be kept at the Animal Management Centres of the AFCD for a certain period under observation. If the dogs were found healthy and of a good temperament, the AFCD would contact the 15 organisations in partnership to arrange handover of the dogs for adoption by members of the public;
- (3) in order to combat the unlicensed animal breeding facilities, the revised legislation had been implemented since March 2017. The revised legislation governed the persons who could trade dogs and extended the prohibition of selling dogs without a licence as well as the restrictions on the breeding frequency of dogs and the living space of the dogs. The respective details were not set out in the original legislation. The related provisions had already been updated after views were sought from various sectors on the revised legislation. The unlicensed animal breeding facilities would be liable to the much heavier penalties and fines once detected;
- (4) the FHB and EDB made concerted efforts to disseminate the message of animal care through the General Studies of primary schools; and
- (5) in the cases handled by the staff of the AFCD, the animal abusers did not only threaten the animals, but also stretched their arms and legs towards the animals consistently. It was only specified in the legislation that it was an offence to do the acts unreasonably.

88. Mr WONG Ka-wa opined that the dog owners should bring along the cleansing consumables to wash away the dog fouling. Also, he hoped that the relevant departments would conduct a further study on the existing legislation which only covered the penalties for leaving dog faeces without specifying any penalties for leaving dog urine.

89. The Acting Chairman stated that the problem of dog fouling should not be discussed under this agenda item. He thanked the HKPF for undertaking to handle the cases of cruelty to animals seriously and carry out investigations with an all-out effort. He also hoped that the Government would enhance the resources for the departments concerned in Tsuen Wan district in order to provide assistance for taking the corresponding actions.

90. The Chairman resumed the chair.

(Note: Ms LAM, Lam Nixie left the meeting at 6:30 p.m.)

X Item 9: Request to Conduct a Comprehensive Tree Health Survey in Tsuen Wan District

(TWDC Paper No. 70/17-18)

91. The Chairman stated that the Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael and Mr CHENG Chit-pun submitted the paper. The representatives from departments responsible for giving response were:

- (1) Mr LAU Yin-pong, Country Parks Officer (Central), AFCD;
- (2) Mr LAM Chi-keung, Desmond, Chief Engineer/NTW 2 (New Territories West), CEDD;
- (3) Miss HUI Pui-yuk, Hermia, Senior Housing Manager (Wong Tai Sin, Tsing Yi & Tsuen Wan 2), HD;
- (4) Mr LI Tse-kwong, Murphy, Leisure Manager (Tree) NTW, LCSD;
- (5) Miss LO Pui-yiu, Sapphire, District Lands Officer (District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing), Lands Department (Lands D); and
- (6) Mr TSE Hing-chit, Administrative Assistant/Lands (District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing), Lands D.

Besides, the written replies of the Development Bureau (DEVB), CEDD, Arch SD, HyD, AFCD, Drainage Services Department, WSD and Lands D were tabled at the meeting.

(Note: Mr TAM Hoi-pong left the meeting at 6:33 p.m.)

92. Mr CHENG Chit-pun introduced the paper.

93. The Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael said there was a fallen tree on the staircases of Chiu Tam Path next to Tsuen Wan Centre, but there was no record of this tree in the Tree Register and the dedicated department responsible for the management of this tree was not known. Finally, it was cleared by someone else one week later. He pointed out that only the trees located at the places of high pedestrian and vehicular flow were recorded in the Tree Register. On the other hand, the trees located at the places of low pedestrian flow were not managed by any dedicated departments, so it took much time to handle these trees. Hence, he opined that a territory-wide survey on the majority of trees should be conducted; that the trees should be distributed to departments for management and that the general public should be notified of the departments responsible for clearance of the fallen trees. He further pointed out that it was learnt that a containerised Chinese Banyan fell down because its root did not hold the soil. Even though there was no typhoon, there was a potential risk of collapse of the Chinese Banyan anytime. Hence, the tree management departments should also ensure that the trees were healthy. He thought that there were risks of causing death among the trees. Currently, however, the responsible departments only carried out regular tree maintenance without arranging experts to conduct tree inspections to ensure that the trees were healthy and did not pose any danger of collapse. He opined that if there was a risk of tree collapse, the responsible departments should reinforce or remove the tree where necessary in order to minimise the potential to cause casualties.

94. Leisure Manager (Tree) NTW of the LCSD responded as follows:

- (1) the LCSD was one of the departments which provided assistance in government tree maintenance. Its major scope of work included the

maintenance of the trees in the parks and playgrounds under its management. The LCSD also assisted in the maintenance of trees at the landscaped areas along roadside. The HyD was responsible for the maintenance of trees at the roadside areas measuring 10 metres from the road kerb on the unallocated and unleased government land; and

- (2) the LCSD was responsible for the management of about 26 800 trees in Tsuen Wan district. There were about 15 400 trees on Category I zone which was of a high pedestrian flow and high vehicular flow. The LCSD conducted an annual risk assessment on the trees located on Category I zone during November of the current year and April of the following year and the assessment would be completed before the typhoon season according to the guideline of the Tree Management Office (TMO) of the DEVB. If the problematic trees were found, the LCSD would arrange the designated officer to conduct an examination according to the established procedures and handle and maintain the trees timely, in order to ensure that the trees under the LCSD's management would not cause a great risk to the general public. The LCSD would consider removing the tree if the risk of the tree could not be lessened by the relevant work and the tree posed danger to the general public.

95. Senior Housing Manager (Wong Tai Sin, Tsing Yi & Tsuen Wan 2) of the HD responded as follows:

- (1) the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HKHA) had stipulated a new enterprise tree management system for HD on its monitoring of tree management work and conduct of the annual risk assessment on trees systematically; and
- (2) the HD's tree assessment contractor would carry out the annual examination and assessment for the trees in the public housing estates during the fourth quarter of the current year and the first quarter of the following year, i.e. before the typhoon season. The arboricultural contractor would carry out the work for tree pruning and removal of the problematic trees according to the result of the assessment report. The HD would conduct additional tree risk assessments and maintenance work if necessary. The estate management staff would also examine all the trees in the public housing estates before and after the typhoon to make sure that the trees were in a normal state and grew healthily, with a view to ensuring the public safety.

96. Country Parks Officer (Central) of the AFCD responded as follows:

- (1) the AFCD was mainly responsible for the maintenance of the trees in the country parks in Tsuen Wan district, including Shing Mun Country Park, Tai Mo Shan Country Park and Tai Lam Country Park. The AFCD also conducted the risk assessment on the trees in the areas of higher pedestrian flow and vehicular flow of the country parks such as the roadsides of public roads and the places around the major venues before the typhoon season; and
- (2) the situation mentioned by the Member seldom happened in the country parks because there were no planters and similar facilities in the country parks as mentioned by the Member.

97. District Lands Officer (District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing) of the Lands D responded as follows:

- (1) according to the existing guideline, the Vegetation Contract Management Team of the Lands D was responsible for handling the trees on the unallocated government land not managed by any other departments within the respective boundary of each district; and
- (2) according to the existing guideline, the Lands D maintained such trees on a non-regular basis, excluding the regular maintenance and health checks for such trees. The Lands D would handle the trees to be felled due to unforeseen crisis, complaints and referrals in order to protect the environs of the trees and minimise the risk to cause the loss of life and damage to property. In this connection, the Lands D would make arrangements for tree pruning and weeding.

98. The Chairman enquired which department was responsible for the fallen tree on the staircases of Chiu Tam Path next to Tsuen Wan Centre as mentioned by the Member.

99. The Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael said that the fallen tree was not managed by any of the departments. In addition, he enquired whether the giant Chinese Banyan located at Lo Tak Court was the tree on Category I zone as mentioned by the representative of the LCSD.

100. Leisure Manager (Tree) NTW of the LCSD responded as follows:

- (1) the LCSD had received the paper but its contents were not clear. Hence, it was uncertain that the tree mentioned by the Member was managed by the LCSD. However, it was believed that the tree at Lo Tak Court managed by the LCSD which collapsed due to the strong wind during the typhoon was duly handled; and
- (2) the LCSD also believed that it was an unusual circumstances that the trees collapsed due to the typhoon signal No. 10 recently. Hong Kong was widely attacked by strong wind and heavy rain. Even though the LCSD had conducted a tree health survey, the trees were not assured of withstanding the typhoon signal No. 10.

101. The Chairman said Members requested that a comprehensive tree health survey in Tsuen Wan district should be conducted. Hence, he wished to know which department was responsible for conducting the comprehensive health survey for the trees not managed by any dedicated departments.

102. Mr CHENG Chit-pun stated that Members lodged a complaint on the fallen tree as illustrated in picture 1 of the paper on 6 September 2017. However, it was finally noted on 15 September 2017 that the tree was managed by the HyD.

103. Mr CHAN Yuen-sum, Sumly said that the tree management in Hong Kong was taken up by a number of departments respectively, resulting in imprecise scope of accountability. The human resources were substantially wasted because some

departments were lack of professional management techniques. Hence, he suggested that a tree office should be established for coordination and management of the trees in Hong Kong as soon as possible. In addition, he agreed to Members' suggestion that a tree health survey should be conducted and trees should be under protection. He hoped that the departments would enhance the tree protection, including reinforcement of trees before the typhoon season for holding up best and maintaining their resistance against strong wind before the tree office centralised the tree management work. Moreover, he said that the clearance work of fallen trees was about to finish but trees had not been replanted at a number of locations yet. He hoped that the government departments would replant the trees as soon as possible so that members of the public could enjoy under the shade of tree canopies and the greening work of Hong Kong could be maintained.

104. Mr WONG Ka-wa stated that not until the casualties arising from tree collapse incidents did the government departments handle the problem. He also noted that the TMO of the DEVB had taken up the coordination work in tree management and engaged the qualified and professional arboriculturists and landscape architects for making assessments on the legality of planting trees at certain locations and the suitable types of trees to be planted. He believed that Hong Kong would be attacked by typhoons during the year, so he hoped that the departments concerned would handle the trees mentioned in the paper and the trees affected under the typhoons. Besides, he pointed out that the HD could promptly arrange the staff to clear the fallen tree trunks in the public housing estates, but the tree stumps were to be handled by other departments. He thus enquired why the tree trunks and the tree stumps were handled separately. Moreover, he hoped that the departments concerned would pay attention to the types of trees with potential risk of collapse, e.g. the tree which was previously planted and collapsed in front of Holy Cross Lutheran School and the Chinese Banyan planted at the side of the carriageway of Lei Muk Shue Estate.

105. Mr MAN Yu-ming supported Members' suggestions. He said apart from the issue of the clearance work of the fallen trees caused by the typhoons, the other problem was that Acacia Confusa tree was the most common tree which had been widely planted in several public housing estates in Tsuen Wan district for forty to fifty years. For example, the trees on the steep roads of Shek Wai Kok Estate were nearly dead, but according to the HD, those trees were still healthy after the follow-up work was conducted. Besides, the trees in Shek Wai Kok Estate were more or less damaged during Typhoon Hato. After all, there were not many fallen trees in the estate; but the clearance work was carried out in a moderate speed. He understood that HD deserved empathy because it was fully occupied by its duties. He pointed out that not only Shek Wai Kok Estate, the trees of rapid growth and spreading canopies such as Acacia Confusa trees were also planted on the slopes of other places. After forty to fifty years, however, the life spans of these trees were about to end and these trees had posed danger. Although the trees were reinforced by cable bracing through the efforts of the departments, their life spans were limited. These trees should be duly handled after it was confirmed in the tree health examination that they were unhealthy. He further pointed out that members of the public were mindful of loss of trees. It was hoped that the departments concerned would expedite the work of replanting trees so as to keep their mind at ease. He also agreed that a tree health

survey for the trees in Tsuen Wan district should be conducted; and that the clearance work for the fallen trees should be conducted timely in order to maintain the public safety.

106. Mr LAM Faat-kang supported Members' suggestions. He opined that the government departments should conduct a survey and prepare a registry accordingly for record purpose. He noted that the LCSD had prepared a registry and thus enquired which department was responsible for the fallen trees next to TW0909. As the access for the residents was affected by the fallen trees, he had notified the Lands D of the fallen trees but did not know which department was responsible for the follow-up work. Finally, the Management Office of Luk Yeung Sun Chuen had to clear up those fallen trees on its own but there was still a fallen tree on the slope which was pending for clearance. He asked the LCSD to check whether the fallen tree was recorded in its registry. He opined that the LCSD should also examine the fallen tree and follow up the problematic trees, apart from possession of the registry.

107. Mr CHAN Chun-chung, Jones supported Members' suggestions. He opined that a comprehensive tree health survey should be conducted and the trees of potential risk should be duly removed. He thought that in the community, consideration should be given to the tree pruning if the daily lives and safety of the occupants were affected by the trees. He further pointed out that as the residents had a strong sentimental attachment to some of the trees, he hoped that the departments concerned would collect views on handling trees from localities when the tree health survey was conducted. It was believed that the views from some members of the public might go against the decisions made by the departments.

108. Ms LAM Yuen-pun, Phyllis supported the tree survey, but she thought that the tree conditions should be followed up after the survey. Tree pruning was required because there were fallen trees or broken tree branches during the typhoon season. However, some of the trees falling down did not necessarily mean that they were unhealthy. They fell down due to the poor absorption of nutrients and water as they were planted on concrete roads next to the carriageway. Besides, these trees of high crown density were prone to fracture due to the influence of the weather. She pointed out that as the departments followed their own rules in handling the trees, it was necessary to handle the trees under a centralised and correct approach. In addition, she noted that many trees which were not palatable to worms had already been cut off because the departments considered that reinforcement for the trees was not required. Hence, she thought that the departments should consider carrying out the tree reinforcement measures. She was dissatisfied that the trees in the areas of private housing estates were not managed by any government departments, owing to the concern of public safety which was probably affected by the trees in the said areas. She pointed out that the problematic trees were not handled by some of the private housing estates due to various reasons after the typhoon season and rainy season. Also, none of the government departments was willing to handle the problematic trees. She opined that the Government was held responsible for the monitoring work. It was too late to handle the matter after casualties were caused. She also hoped that the TMO or relevant departments would undertake the coordination work and handle the overall problem of tree management.

109. Mr NG Hin-lung, Norris noted that various government departments would carry out inspections, namely, the HD would review the trees in the public housing estates and the LCSD would review the trees in its venues. He opined that the departments still failed to get to the root of the problem, even though the inspection work had been carried out by their staff. Hence, he doubted whether the root of the problem would be identified through simply making a request of conducting an additional survey by adoption of the existing methods. He thought that currently, the awareness of tree maintenance could be enhanced by the departments. He also pointed out that the trees in the urban area should not be planted in such a little soil for absorption of water and nutrients due to the coverage by the slabs along the road. Unfortunately, the departments did not pay attention to this during the inspections. In addition, he opined that the Government should stipulate a policy target that a precise direction and opinion should be given through a professional landscape architect or an arboriculturist when the survey was conducted, in order to explore the possible causes of tree growth problem, including too little soil at the planting locations, and the reasons for failure of the tree roots growing deep down to the soil, including the paving of concrete at the base of the trees. As such, the findings of the survey would be of a higher reference value.

110. The Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael stated that he would like to make the captioned request to the TMO, not including the departments which sent their representatives to attend this meeting. The paper did not aim to discuss the methods for handling the trees as illustrated in the pictures and which department was to be held responsible for handling those trees. Instead, it aimed to explore the overall policy on tree management. Hence, he hoped that the TMO would provide a written reply to indicate if the tree surveys, the measures on ensuring trees' health, and policy on balancing the public's sentimental attachment to the trees and the potential risks of tree collapses were readily available. He pointed out that the tree roots protruding from some locations hindered the pavements. The passers-by could only walk on the carriageways when they found the pavements were inaccessible. It was very dangerous. After all, the tree would probably be retained partly because the public was fond of it and partly because it was still very healthy. Yet, what should be done once an accident happened. He opined that the TMO should stipulate the relevant policies because there was no Government policy on dealing with the tree problems.

111. The Chairman believed that the departments had already examined the trees under their management. He enquired whether the LCSD would organise the talks on greening and said that Members who had interest in the talks could enroll for participation.

112. District Leisure Manager (Tsuen Wan) of the LCSD stated that the LCSD organised talks on greening to give a brief introduction of different kinds of trees to participants every year. He encouraged Members to enroll in the talks and work together for the greening work.

113. The Chairman requested the TMO to give a written reply for Members' enquiries.

XI Item 10: “Strongly Request the MTRCL to Provide Additional Escalators at the Lobby and on Each Floor of West Rail Tsuen Wan Station so as to Meet the Demand of Huge Crowds in the Future.”

(TWDC Paper No. 71/17-18)

114. The Chairman stated that Mr CHOW Ping-tim submitted the paper. The representative from the Mass Transit Railway Corporation Limited (MTRCL) responsible for giving response was Ms Mona LAM, Public Relational Manager – External Affairs.

115. Mr CHOW Ping-tim introduced the paper.

116. The Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael agreed with the Member’s proposal. He pointed out that it took two minutes on average for the passengers to walk from the platforms to the lobby in Tsuen Wan West Station during the evening commuting peak hours. It was believed that it took more than two minutes following the increased number of passengers in future. The existing staircases of a total of 43 steps connected the platforms and lobby in Tsuen Wan West Station. Also, two upward and downward escalators were provided at both sides of the platforms respectively. The existing staircases should be narrowed if an additional two-way escalator was provided to cope with the passenger flow during peak hours. However, problems would arise in case of the escalator was out of order. Hence, he hoped that an additional one-way escalator would be provided on each platform by the MTRCL. The upward and downward movements of the escalator could be adjusted according to the needs during peak hours.

117. Public Relational Manager – External Affairs of the MTRCL responded as follows:

- (1) the MTRCL had all along been committed to providing a safe and pleasant station environment for passengers. In planning the layout as well as the locations and quantities of facilities for each station, the MTRCL would consider the community planning and population distribution of the area in the vicinity of the station, the projection of population growth and the overall community development;
- (2) the MTRCL would also create the exits/entrances at strategic locations of the stations according to the factors including the selected site of the station, geographical environment, different buildings nearby as well as the passengers’ access to and from the station. The MTRCL would consider the present and future population developments on planning, with a view to providing service for coverage of the densely populated areas to meet the community needs;
- (3) at present, a total of 20 escalators, three lifts and 14 staircases connected the platforms, lobby and five exits/entrances in Tsuen Wan West Station. Overall speaking, the passenger flow to and from Tsuen Wan West Station as well as that between the platforms and lobby of the station were currently smooth according to observations; and the passengers maintained good order during the peak hours in the morning and evening. The passengers’ needs were well coped with the existing facilities. The passengers alighting at Tsuen Wan West Station during peak hours could leave the station quickly by taking the escalators, lifts and staircases. The passengers boarding at Tsuen Wan West Station could leave the

station by getting on the first arriving train for most of the time; on the other hand, some of them had to wait a little while for the next train during the busiest hours;

- (4) in future, exits/entrances B and C at the lobby level of Tsuen Wan West Station would directly lead to the waterfront promenade of Tsuen Wan and exit/entrance C would lead to the shopping mall of the residential properties of Bayside at Tsuen Wan West Station. Besides, exit/entrance C on the 1/F of the station would connect to the shopping malls of the residential properties of Bayside and Cityside; and
- (5) the MTRCL would closely monitor the daily operation of Tsuen Wan West Station to ensure that the station functioned well.

118. Mr CHOW Ping-tim said that he put forth a modest proposal to seek valuable advices and suggestions. As he expected, the MTRCL gave an anticipated response that there was no problem with the design of Tsuen Wan West Station. Yet, he thought that the needs of the general public could hardly be met by the station of the said design in reality. He hoped that the MTRCL would provide more information such as pictures or layout plans to illustrate the respective locations of the exits/entrances and whether the number of escalators in Tsuen Wan West Station would be increased after the completion of other residential properties, so that Members could make analysis of the actual situation. He opined that the MTRCL should prepare a more holistic plan and provide additional escalators connecting the platforms, in order to meet the needs arising from the passenger flow in future and take corresponding actions to settle the unforeseeable incidents. It would be too late to devise plans and measures for the problems after they came up. He further pointed out that the provision of additional escalators was the only correct approach to cope with the large passenger flow. The problem could not be solved only by the provision of staircases.

119. Mr NG Hin-lung, Norris stated that on design, Tsuen Wan West Station was spacious enough for coping with the large passenger flow. He enquired the MTRCL on the maximum passenger capacity anticipated for the station of the said design during peak hours and the proportion of the current usage of passengers in the anticipated maximum passenger capacity.

(Note: The Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael left the meeting at 7:28 p.m.)

120. Mr CHAN Chun-chung, Jones stated that currently, a number of passageways of Tsuen Wan West Station were closed owing to the construction works of the development projects nearby. He enquired on the ancillary facilities and alignments of the MTR station after the completion of the development projects; and whether the two escalators suspended in use near the bus stop at one of the exits of Tsuen Wan West Station were to be managed by the MTRCL. Moreover, he agreed with Members' suggestions and pointed out that Tsuen Wan West Station was crowded during the morning commuting peak hours. Hence, he opined that the MTRCL should start planning for the ancillary facilities in future.

121. Mr LAM Faat-kang said that there were not many passengers when the West Rail Line was put into service, but currently, its passenger capacity was near saturated. He pointed out that after the development projects nearby were completed, the

population growth of about 20 000 people in the area would definitely continue to pile pressure on the West Rail Line. Hence, he opined that the MTRCL should draw up the plans for provision of additional facilities as soon as possible in order to cope with the surge in the number of passengers in future.

122. Public Relational Manager – External Affairs of the MTRCL responded as follows:

- (1) the MTRCL noted Members' proposals on enhancement of facilities of the station;
- (2) to ensure passengers' safety during incidents, there were established contingency plans and crowd management measures for each station in rationalisation of passenger flow and evacuation of passengers, apart from remodulation of the facilities of the station;
- (3) there were a total of five exits/entrances in Tsuen Wan West Station. According to observations, Tsuen Wan West Station was not very busy. During the peak hours, the passenger flow to and from the station as well as that between the platforms and lobby of the station were smooth; and the station was in good order. During the busiest hours, the usage rate of the most frequently used exit/entrance in Tsuen Wan West Station was 25% and single-digit usage rates were recorded for the less frequently used exits/entrances. It was anticipated that the usage rates of the more frequently used exits/entrances would remain under 40% in ten years;
- (4) in planning the layout as well as the locations and quantities of the facilities for each station, the MTRCL would take into consideration the overall development and community planning of the area around the station;
- (5) as the exact locations of the two escalators suspended in use as mentioned by the Member were not known, the MTRCL was uncertain as to whether these escalators were under its management;
- (6) after the in-take of the new residential properties and completion of the shopping malls, the direct access from the station to the waterfront and shopping malls would be provided through its exits/entrances which were closed for the time being in order to tie in with the development; and
- (7) the relevant information on Tsuen Wan West Station was indicated in the sales brochures of the newly completed residential properties. Meanwhile, the MTRCL would provide the relevant information for Members after the meeting.

123. Mr CHOW Ping-tim stated that currently, only the one-way escalators moving upward or downward were in operation in Tsuen Wan West Station. It was undesirable. He opined that the two-way escalators should be provided at the exits/entrances of the station to and from Belvedere Garden and the promenade. He also questioned whether the existing facilities were adequate in coping with the passenger flow in ten years.

124. The Chairman requested the MTRCL to provide the relevant information about the future development of Tsuen Wan West Station for Members after the meeting, take Members' views into consideration and enhance the facilities of Tsuen Wan West Station. The MTRCL was also requested to maintain further communication with district councillors of the constituency areas.

XII Item 11: Crime Brief for Tsuen Wan District – Comparison of Crime Statistics between July to August 2017 and July to August 2016
(TWDC Paper No. 72/17-18)

125. District Commander (Tsuen Wan) (Acting) of the HKPF reported the situation of the crimes in Tsuen Wan district.

XIII Item 12: Crime Brief for Ma Wan – July to August 2017
(TWDC Paper No. 73/17-18)

126. District Commander (Tsuen Wan) (Acting) of the HKPF reported the situation of the crimes in Ma Wan.

XIV Item 13: Revised Proposal for Tsuen Wan District Council Funds Allocation in 2017/18
(TWDC Paper No. 74/17-18)

127. The Secretary introduced the paper.

128. Members unanimously endorsed the revised proposal for Tsuen Wan District Council funds allocation.

XV Item 14: Application for District Council Funds by Tsuen Wan District Youth Programme Community Steering Committee
(TWDC Paper No. 75/17-18)

129. The Secretary introduced the paper and stated that Ms LAM Yuen-pun, Phyllis was the Member of the Tsuen Wan District Youth Programme Community Steering Committee (the Committee) for declaration of interest of her membership of the Committee.

130. The Chairman asked Members to make declaration of other interest. No Member made declaration of other interest.

131. The Chairman decided that the Member who had declared her membership of the Tsuen Wan District Youth Programme Community Steering Committee might speak and vote, according to section 48(11) of the Standing Orders.

132. Members unanimously endorsed the following funding application:

	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Applying Organisation/ Co-organiser</u>	<u>Amount Approved</u> (\$)
(1)	Voluntary Service in Tsuen Wan Youth Award 2017	Yan Chai Hospital Yim Tsui Yuk Shan Fuk Loi Integrated Community Development Centre	90,000.00

XVI Item 15: Application for District Council Funds by Tsuen Wan District Fight Crime Committee
(TWDC Paper No. 76/17-18)

133. The Secretary introduced the paper and stated that Mr MAN Yu-ming, Mr LI Hung-por, Mr CHAN Chun-chung, Jones, Mr CHAN Sung-ip and Mr KOT Siu-yuen

were the Members of the Tsuen Wan District Fight Crime Committee (the Committee) for declaration of interest of their membership of the Committee.

134. The Chairman asked Members to make declaration of other interest. No Member made declaration of other interest.

135. The Chairman decided that the Member who had declared their membership of the Tsuen Wan District Fight Crime Committee might speak and vote, according to section 48(11) of the Standing Orders.

136. Members unanimously endorsed the following funding application:

	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Applying Organisation/ Co-organiser</u>	<u>Amount Approved</u> (\$)
(1)	Tsuen Wan District Winter Precaution Publicity Campaign 2017/2018	The Yuen Yuen Institute Social Service Department	182,000.00

XVII Item 16: Application for District Council Funds by Tsuen Wan District Coordinating Committee on New Arrival Services
(TWDC Paper No. 77/17-18)

137. The Secretary introduced the paper.

138. The Chairman asked Members to make declaration of interest. No Member made declaration of interest.

139. Members unanimously endorsed the following funding applications:

	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Applying Organisation/ Co-organiser</u>	<u>Amount Approved</u> (\$)
(1)	Inclusive Programme for New Arrivals in Tsuen Wan	Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong Tsuen Wan Centre	26,064.00
(2)	Photography Classes for New Arrival Women in Tsuen Wan	Hong Kong Children & Youth Services Jockey Club Belvedere Garden Integrated Children & Youth Services Centre	29,035.00
(3)	Love Our Society • Love Our Home	New Home Association Limited	30,000.00
(4)	Programme on Women's Physical and Mental Health in Community	Caritas Community Centre - Tsuen Wan	30,000.00

XVIII Item 17: Application for District Council Funds by Tsuen Wan District Office
(TWDC Paper No. 78/17-18)

140. The Secretary introduced the paper.

141. The Chairman asked Members to make declaration of interest. No Member made declaration of interest.

142. Members unanimously endorsed the following funding applications:

	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Applying Organisation/ Co-organiser</u>	<u>Amount Approved</u> (\$)
(1)	Love Action in Tsuen Wan District 2017	Yan Chai Hospital Board of Directors	313,600.00
(2)	Historical Tours in Tsuen Wan	The Yuen Yuen Institute Social Service Department	180,000.00
(3)	H.A.Y. Activities for Young Mothers and Families	Caritas Jockey Club Integrated Service for Young People - Lei Muk Shue	88,034.00
(4)	Go Goal Growth Anti-drug Programme in Tsuen Wan	Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong Tsuen Wan Centre	149,800.00

XIX Item 18: Application for District Council Funds by Cheung Ching Friends Association

(TWDC Paper No. 79/17-18)

143. The Secretary introduced the paper.

144. The Chairman asked Members to make declaration of interest. No Member made declaration of interest.

145. Mr CHOW Ping-tim enquired about the criteria for selection of co-organisers. He pointed out that the funding application was made for organising a one-off half-day Tai Chi activity but there were only 50 participants in each Tai Chi Fitness Class. He further pointed out that majority of the expenditure would be on the costs of T-shirts and stage production. Thus, he opined that the cost-effectiveness of the activity was at odds with the expenditure and no effective outcome was reached through the activity. He understood that the activity was of an elemental value but unlike the Tsuen Wan District Winter Precaution Publicity Campaign 2017/2018, it did not aim to promote the relevant messages or to break the Guinness World Record. As such, he would like to point out something that was unreasonable. He thus raised objection to the approval of the funding application.

146. Assistant District Officer (Tsuen Wan) of the TWDO responded as follows:

- (1) the TWDO noted the Member's views and would consider making further enhancement on the arrangements for the activities in future; and
- (2) the activities which were similar to the Tai Chi Demonstration cum Fun Day had been organised in the past. The funding application was not

only made for the Tai Chi Demonstration cum Fun Day, but also for the demonstration and introduction by the Tai Chi masters as well as arranging group practices for the participants. The participants would be given an opportunity to learn Tai Chi although the learning duration was incomparable to that of the intensive training classes. The organiser would also promote the culture and concept of Tai Chi in the community in order to enhance the participants' exposure to Tai Chi.

147. Mr CHAN Yuen-sum, Sumly noted that similar activities had been organised in the past. He opined that the funding application of \$150,000 would be settled by the public funds but only about 1 000 people would be benefitted. As the activity was not cost-effective, he disapproved the funding application. Moreover, he thought that the district councillors had the responsibility for monitoring the use of public funds. He hoped that the TWDO would pay more attention to the cost-effectiveness of the funding applications when handling funding applications of similar nature in future.

148. The Vice Chairman suggested that reference could be drawn from the activities organised by the Tsuen Wan Town Hall so as to evaluate whether the funding application was cost-effective. He also opined that timely consideration could be given to exploring the enhancement measures for the funding applications of similar nature in future.

149. The Chairman noted Members' views and requested the TWDO to consider Members' views when handling the funding applications of similar nature in future.

150. The Vice Chairman proposed that a ballot should be held. Members agreed to the proposal.

151. After voting, the funding application received 8 votes in favour, 2 votes against and 1 abstention.

152. The Chairman announced the endorsement of the following funding application:

	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Applying Organisation/ Co-organiser</u>	<u>Amount Approved</u> (\$)
(1)	Tai Chi Demonstration cum Fun Day	Wan Yeung Tai Chi Club	150,000.00

XX Item 19: Information Papers

153. Members noted the contents of the following information papers:

- (1) Report of District Facilities Management Committee (TWDC Paper No. 80/17-18);
- (2) Report of Culture, Recreation and Sports Committee (TWDC Paper No. 81/17-18);
- (3) Report of Traffic and Transport Committee (TWDC Paper No. 82/17-18);
- (4) Report of Community Building, Planning and Development Committee (TWDC Paper No. 83/17-18);

- (5) Report of Social Services and Community Information Committee (TWDC Paper No. 84/17-18);
- (6) Report of Coastal Affairs Committee (TWDC Paper No. 85/17-18);
- (7) Report of Environmental and Health Affairs Committee (TWDC Paper No. 86/17-18);
- (8) Report of District Management Committee (TWDC Paper No. 87/17-18); and
- (9) Financial Statement of Tsuen Wan District Council Funds as at 15 September 2017 (TWDC Paper No. 88/17-18).

XXI Item 20: Any Other Business

154. The Chairman stated that a letter from Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups was received earlier to invite the TWDC to serve as a supporting organisation for “‘Neighbourhood First’ – 2018 Reunion Dinner in 18 Districts”. The Reunion Dinner would be held on 3 February 2018 (Saturday) in 18 districts over the territory and a total of 1 000 tables would be set up for the reunion dinner. It aimed to initiate the spirit for caring the neighbourhood in all districts by the young people over the territory and it was expected that 50 tables would be set up for the reunion dinner in Tsuen Wan district to serve a total of 1 080 people in the district.

155. Members unanimously agreed that the TWDC served as a supporting organisation for “‘Neighbourhood First’ – 2018 Reunion Dinner in 18 Districts”.

156. The Chairman said it indicated in a letter from Deloitte Consulting (Hong Kong) Limited (the company) earlier that the Home Affairs Bureau commissioned the company to conduct a consultancy study on provision of sports facilities in Hong Kong for exploration of the demand and supply of sports facilities in Hong Kong and make recommendations to the Government on future provision of sports facilities, with a view to promoting sports development in Hong Kong. The company invited the TWDC to send representatives to join and give views in the focus group discussion. He proposed that Mr KOT Siu-yuen, the Chairman of the Culture, Recreation and Sports Committee (CRSC) and Mr KOO Yeung-pong, the Vice Chairman of the CRSC should attend the meeting on behalf of the TWDC.

157. Members unanimously agreed to the above proposal.

158. The Chairman stated that a woman fell into the temple furnace at the Yuen Yuen Institute in Tsuen Wan in the morning on 9 September 2017. Three firemen were injured when they rescued the woman. He proposed that a letter of appreciation should be sent to the Fire Services Department (FSD) in the name of the TWDC in recognition of the professionalism of the firefighters. He hoped that the FSD would continue to support and assist in the work of the TWDC as well as working together for a better community.

159. Members unanimously agreed that a letter of appreciation was to be sent to the FSD in the name of the TWDC.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat had sent a letter of appreciation dated 10 October 2017 to the FSD in recognition of the professionalism of the firefighters.)

160. Mr WONG Ka-wa said he hoped that the Yuen Yuen Institute in Tsuen Wan would improve its facilities to prevent the recurrence of similar accidents.

161. The Chairman stated that the safety issue of the facilities at the Yuen Yuen Institute in Tsuen Wan was not involved in the accident.

162. The Chairman stated that a letter from the Hong Kong and China Gas Company Limited was received earlier to invite Members of the TWDC to participate in the 18 Districts Parents and Children Healthy Cooking Competition 2017 “I Cook a Dish for My Parents” in Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Reunification of Hong Kong with China. The competition would be held on 15 October 2017 (Sunday) and each District Council could assign one or more teams to participate in the competition. The Members who would like to take part in the competition should make enrolment through the Secretariat by 28 September 2017.

163. Mr KOT Siu-yuen said that the peak time of goods packaging and delivery by foreign domestic helpers was approaching. He thanked the Police and the FEHD for carrying out the preparatory work recently for prevention of the obstruction of passageways.

164. The Chairman requested the relevant departments to monitor the situation.

165. The Chairman reminded Members that the date of the next meeting was 28 November 2017 and the deadline for submission of paper was 13 November 2017.

XXII Adjournment of Meeting

166. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat
October 2017