

(Translation)

Minutes of the 14th Meeting of Tsuen Wan District Council (5/17-18)

Date: 30 January 2018

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 CHOW Chun-hun, Gary	Assistant District Officer (Tsuen Wan), 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
Mr CHAN Lok-wing	District Commander (Tsuen Wan), Hong Kong Police Force
Ms TANG Wai-han, Olivia	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

Ms LUI Ka-wing	Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing) ³ , 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
Mrs TANG FUNG Shuk-yin	Chief Manager/Management (Wong Tai Sin, Tsing Yi and Tsuen Wan), Housing Department
Mr KUAN Man-hou	Chief Health Inspector 2 (Tsuen Wan), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr LAM Chi-keung, Desmond	Chief Engineer/NTW 2 (New Territories West), Civil Engineering and Development Department
Ms HO Sau-fan, Fanny	Chief Leisure Manager (New Territories West), Leisure and Cultural Services 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 LO Chi-yun, Daisy	Assistant Director (Water Policy), Environmental Protection Department
Mr YEUNG Kwok-on, Keith	Principal Environmental Protection Officer (Regional Office (West)), Environmental Protection Department
Dr YANG Rong, Ron	Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Water Policy and Science), Environmental Protection Department
Ms TSANG Ka-man, Carmen	Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional West) ² , Environmental Protection Department
Mr KAN Hon-shing	Chief Engineer/Harbour Area Treatment Scheme, Drainage Services Department
Mr LEE Chiu-chun	Senior Engineer/Harbour Area Treatment Scheme, Drainage Services Department

For discussion of item 4:

Ms TAM Yin-ping, Donna	District Planning Officer/Sai Kung & Islands, Planning Department
Mr SIU Yee-lin, Richard	Senior Town Planner/Islands 1, Planning Department

For discussion of item 5:

Mr CHONG Kwok-wai
Mr CHEUNG Kim-hung,
Michael

District Engineer/Tsuen Wan, Highways Department
Engineer/Tsuen Wan 2, Transport Department

For discussion of item 7:

Dr LOH Lai-ting, Taron

Senior Medical & Health Officer (Community Liaison) 1,
Department of Health

For discussion of item 8:

Mr POON Yui-chau, William
Ms CHU Yuen-man, Lisa

Assistant Secretary (Buildings)3, Development Bureau
Chief Building Surveyor/Mandatory Building Inspection
2, Buildings Department

Mr LAU Kwok-fu

Senior Divisional Officer (Building
Improvement)2 (Acting), Fire Services Department

Mr YIM Ying-kit

Senior Station Officer (Building Improvement)2, Fire
Services Department

Mr Patrick LAU

Senior Manager, Building Rehabilitation, Urban Renewal
Authority

Mr Eugene YUE

Senior Manager, Community Development, Urban
Renewal Authority

For discussion of item 10:

Ms LAM Lan-fong, Bubi

Senior School Development Officer (Tsuen Wan)2,
Education Bureau

For discussion of item 11:

Ms LAM Mong, Mona

Public Relational Manager – External Affairs, Mass
Transit Railway Corporation Limited

Action

I Opening Remarks and Introduction

The Chairman welcomed the Members and representatives from government departments to the 14th meeting of Tsuen Wan District Council (TWDC) and introduced:

- (1) Ms LUI Ka-wing, Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing)3, Social Welfare Department (SWD), who attended this meeting on behalf of Mr WONG Kwok-chun, Alex; and
- (2) Mr KUAN Man-hou, Chief Health Inspector 2 (Tsuen Wan) (CHI2(TW)), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), who attended this meeting on behalf of Ms KHATTAK Nasreen.

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 27 March 2018 and the deadline for submission of paper was 12 March 2018. 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. Moreover, Members’ attention was drawn to the rule of filming that any Member who wished to film should make application to the Chairman in advance and the Member himself or herself was to be filmed only, exclusive of any other persons at the scene notwithstanding the Chairman’s approval was granted for such an application.

(Note: Mr LI Hung-por joined the meeting at 2:41 p.m.)

II Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes of the 13th Meeting held on 28.11.2017

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.

(Note: Mr MAN Yu-ming and Mr CHENG Chit-pun joined the meeting at 2:42 p.m.)

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

(A) Paragraphs 114-124 of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 26 September 2017: “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.”

5. The Chairman stated that Members had discussed the above issue at the TWDC meeting held on 26 September 2017. The supplementary information submitted by the Mass Transit Railway Corporation Limited (MTRCL) on 6 December 2017 had been distributed to Members for perusal.

(B) Paragraphs 77-92 of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 28 November 2017: Request to Enhance Regulation on the Use of Drones in Tsuen Wan District

6. The Chairman stated that Members had discussed the above issue at the TWDC meeting held on 28 November 2017. The supplementary information submitted by the Civil Aviation Department on 15 January 2018 had been distributed to Members for perusal.

IV Item 3: The Maintenance Works of the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme Stage 1

(TWDC Paper No. 116/17-18)

7. The Chairman stated that the Environment Bureau and Drainage Services Department (DSD) briefed Members on the maintenance works of the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme (HATS) Stage 1. The representatives from departments attending the meeting were:

- (1) Ms LO Chi-yun, Daisy, Assistant Director (Water Policy) (AD(WP)), Environmental Protection Department (EPD);
- (2) Mr KAN Hon-shing, Chief Engineer/Harbour Area Treatment Scheme (CE/HATS), DSD;
- (3) Mr YEUNG Kwok-on, Keith, Principal Environmental Protection Officer (Regional Office (West)), EPD;
- (4) Dr YANG Rong, Ron, Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Water Policy and Science), EPD;
- (5) Mr LEE Chiu-chun, Senior Engineer/Harbour Area Treatment Scheme, DSD; and
- (6) Ms TSANG Ka-man, Carmen, Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional West)², EPD.

(Note: Ms LAM Yuen-pun, Phyllis and Mr TAM Hoi-pong joined the meeting at 2:46 p.m. and 2:49 p.m. respectively.)

8. AD(WP) of the EPD and CE/HATS of the DSD introduced the paper.

9. Mr CHENG Chit-pun learnt that the penstocks of the Main Pumping Station No. 1 (MPS1) would be replaced and that five bypasses would be conducted in the next few years for direct discharge of sewage into the sea. He pointed out that there was the seawater odour problem along the Tsuen Wan harbourfront. He worried that the sea would be further polluted due to the conduct of bypasses, resulting in a more severe seawater odour problem. He further pointed out that the residents were moving in the residential properties along the Tsuen Wan harbourfront one after the other, so the number of residents being affected by the seawater odour problem was increasing. Thus, he hoped that the departments concerned would shorten the period of maintenance works as far as possible and shorten the bypass period from two weeks to one week. He said that six out of eight beaches in Tsuen Wan district were located in his constituency area and one out of them was located at the margin of his constituency area. He learnt that one of the beaches was closed earlier, but a department indicated that the water quality of all the beaches had met the standard. Hence, he wished to learn more about the details. Moreover, some members of the public still went swimming at the beaches even though the departments conducted the maintenance works during the non-bathing season. Thus, he wished to learn more about the mitigating measures on the impacts to the water quality of the beaches brought by the maintenance works.

10. Mr WONG Ka-wa stated that a greater impact would be brought to the sea if the maintenance works was not carried out. He learnt that part of the maintenance works would be conducted in Tsuen Wan district; however, the premises along the

Tsuen Wan harbourfront, the beaches along the coastline and the mariculture rafts in Ma Wan would be affected by the discharge of the sewage arising from the maintenance works. Hence, he hoped that the departments concerned would conduct the monitoring work through frequent sampling of seawater during the maintenance works. In addition, he thought that the departments concerned should inform the relevant stakeholders of the news and information about the maintenance works during the period of maintenance works. Moreover, he hoped that the EPD would conduct the comprehensive checks on seawater sampling, so that the relevant data could be provided for the general public and environmentalists' reference, and that the departments concerned would spell out the timetable of the maintenance works as well as the mitigating measures on the impacts brought by the maintenance works to be taken for the coastal areas.

11. Mr LI Hung-por enquired whether the sewage from all districts had been directly discharged into the sea after the implementation of the HATS.

12. Mr CHOW Ping-tim pointed out that the penstocks of the MPS1 became damaged after they were in use for only 16 years because their design or materials were not ideal. He hoped that the newly-built penstocks would be more durable. He had made enquires to the parties concerned and it was assumed that the penstocks were distorted and bent because they were no longer supportive in their capability. Hence, he opined that the design of the penstocks should be completely improved, say, the penstocks should be installed at the pipeline alike that of the Main Pumping Station No. 2 (MPS2). He learnt that following the preliminary treatment, there were covers alike the floating bridges at the outfalls. Thus, he suggested that the DSD should adopt such a design for the three outfalls in Tsuen Wan district. It was believed that the sewage odour would be further reduced before the completion of the dry weather flow interceptors.

13. Mr TAM Hoi-pong enquired whether the quality of the sewage from the outfalls of Kwai Chung was poorer than that of the sewage discharged from the Stonecutters Island Sewage Treatment Works (SCISTW); and opined that it was unacceptable. He pointed out that other sea creatures would be affected even though the maintenance works was conducted during the non-bathing season. Hence, he hoped that the departments concerned would make clarification on the genuine need of conducting the maintenance works; and whether the alternative options on maintaining the water quality were devised. He further pointed out that a study on the discharge options differed in the degree of centralisation was carried out during the consultation of the HATS Stage 1 and Stage 2. Currently, problems occurred in SCISTW after the discharge option of highly centralisation was adopted. He thus enquired whether the departments concerned would reconsider the construction of a backup sewage treatment works to serve as a fallback when the machinery of the existing sewage treatment works were under repair or out of order. In addition, upon his observation, he found that the sewage treatment capability of the watercourses between Tsuen Wan and Tsing Yi was different from that as described in the information provided by the departments. In his views, on top of the discharge of sewage under the primary treatment in Kwai Chung, the quality of sewage discharged into the sea would be even poorer. Hence, he hoped that the departments concerned would consider the relevant proposals seriously.

14. Mr NG Hin-lung, Norris noted that the departments had conducted a survey to predict the Escherichia coli (E. coli) level of the beaches in Tsuen Wan during the bypasses. He pointed out that as to whether the beach was suitable for swimming, not only was the E. coli level of the marine water of the beach under review, but also the contents of other substances such as grease and heavy metals were examined. Thus, he enquired whether the departments would predict the contents of the substances other than E. coli in the marine water of the beaches; and whether the monitoring stations would be set up on the beaches for surveillance of marine water quality during the maintenance works. Besides, he enquired whether the departments would report the progress of the maintenance works to the general public and district councils, and enquired about the corresponding measures of the departments concerned for the beaches which were unsuitable for swimming during the bypasses.

15. Ms LAM, Lam Nixie enquired about the difference between the newly-built facilities and the existing facilities as well as the anticipated life expectancy of the newly-built facilities. She pointed out that the members of the public were concerned about the marine water quality. Thus, she enquired whether the departments concerned had stipulated a mechanism to facilitate the close liaison with Members during the maintenance works, so that Members could get access to the information of the contact persons who assisted in handling the unforeseeable incidents. Besides, she said that the period of maintenance works was not in a short term and that the members of the public might wish to learn more about the information in relation to their communities. Thus, she enquired whether the departments concerned would report regularly or release the relevant information on the Internet for public's access.

16. Mr LO Siu-kit stated that there were a number of beaches in Tsuen Wan district which was a coastal area of Victoria Harbour, but the coastal sewage in Tsuen Wan was not treated in both HATS Stage 1 and Stage 2. He hoped that the departments concerned would also study a long-term measure, not merely the non-remedial dry weather flow interceptors in use, to treat the sewage discharged from the outfalls near the South Bridge of Tsing Yi. In addition, he learnt that it was necessary to carry out the maintenance works; otherwise, more severe problems would be triggered when unforeseeable incidents took place. Given the direction of tidal stream was from Kwai Chung to Tsuen Wan, he enquired whether the departments concerned would apply machinery control for the direction and speed of the tidal stream, so that the sewage was directed to flow to the SCISTW and the impact of the sewage brought to the beaches and coastal areas in Tsuen Wan was lessened. Moreover, he hoped that the departments concerned would submit the data of the maintenance works to the Coastal Affairs Committee (CAC) or upload them to the webpages of the departments concerned for Member and public's reference.

17. Mr KOO Yeung-pong opined that the maintenance works should be carried out. He believed that the residents of the housing estates at Tsuen Wan harbourfront areas would probably lodge complaints on seawater odour after they moved in. Hence, he agreed with the Member's previous proposal that improvement works should also be carried out for the three outfalls at the harbourfront of Tsuen Wan

district during the maintenance works. He pointed out that beaches were valuable resources in Tsuen Wan district and popular for swimmers. Hence, he suggested that the EPD or DSD should regularly report the relevant data and indicators to the district councils after the commencement of the maintenance works, so that Members and swimmers could grasp the updated news about the safety of the beaches.

18. Mr CHAN Sung-ip enquired about the relevant departments' procedures of handling unforeseeable incidents during the maintenance works of Stage 1.

19. The Vice Chairman enquired whether the departments concerned would establish a one-stop system on handling complaints during the bypasses to address the enquiries and complaints from the general public.

20. AD(WP) of the EPD responded as follows:

- (1) the bathing season usually started on 1 April every year and the bypasses would be conducted during the non-bathing season in which all the eight beaches in Tsuen Wan were closed. Compared to the non-bathing season, there were more frequent rainfalls and rain was heavy at times during the bathing season, so the DSD should maintain the operation of the MPS1 for the higher aquatic volume. The DSD opted to carry out the maintenance works during the non-bathing season because inconvenience might be caused to the general public (in particular the swimmers) if the maintenance works was carried out during the bathing season;
- (2) in the past, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) probably granted approval for the individual organisations to carry out activities (e.g. lifeguard training) on the beaches in Tsuen Wan which were closed during the non-bathing season. The LCSD had undertaken that the activities of this type would not be approved during the bypasses;
- (3) the EPD and DSD noted the odour problem at Tsuen Wan harbourfront which was mainly due to the discharge of sewage and pollutants into storm drains mistakenly from the premises, restaurants, retail shops and streets in the district. On making improvement to the situation, the EPD and DSD successfully obtained the allocation of funds from the Legislative Council (LegCo) in July 2017 for construction of four dry weather flow interceptors in Tsuen Wan district to divert the polluted sewage from storm drains to sewers for treatment in SCISTW during the dry season, with a view to minimising the odour of Tsuen Wan harbourfront. In addition, the EPD hoped that the public education would be carried out in a strengthened joint effort with the district councils for enhancing public understanding that sewage should not be discharged into storm drains, in order to solve the problem at source. Meanwhile, the EPD would review the misconnected sewers and make rectifications as soon as possible to lessen the odour. Currently, the DSD had commenced a trial of the use of plastic sheets to suppress the odour and would continue to liaise closely with the district councils;
- (4) the coastal areas of Victoria Harbour would be affected by the proposed maintenance works. In this connection, the EPD would issue the press release for public information before the Chinese New Year. Also, the

LCSD and departments concerned would put up notices at the prominent locations such as the promenades and piers to inform the general public of the maintenance works to be conducted and remind the general public that the coastal areas in question were unsuitable for fishing and water activities;

- (5) the DSD would set up a telephone hotline for receiving and following up on the enquiries and complaints from the general public;
- (6) the EPD had reviewed a series of mitigating measures and emergency plans stipulated by the DSD. The emergency plans would be activated where necessary;
- (7) during the bypass episodes, the DSD would arrange staff to collect the marine water samples from different stations more frequently. The testing results of the samples would be uploaded to the dedicated webpage of the EPD as soon as possible. As a monitoring body, the EPD would also arrange staff to carry out inspections and marine water sampling at the coast and harbourfront in question more frequently; and
- (8) the EPD's existing indicator of beach water quality was set up by drawing reference from the World Health Organization's guidelines and recommendations, together with the findings of local surveys. On surveillance of beach water pollution, the most common indicative bacteria under worldwide recognition was E. coli. The level of heavy metals or grease (mostly in solid form) in marine water was usually very low which did not affect the beach users. These parameters were normally excluded from the overseas monitoring standard of beach water quality.

21. CE/HATS of the DSD responded as follows:

- (1) the existing proposed frequencies and periods of the bypass episodes were scheduled according to the complexity of the maintenance works, work procedures and work safety. The DSD would re-examine the work arrangements and review the relevant situations in detail after the first bypass. Also, the DSD would study the measures on optimising the work procedures under the priority of ascertained work safety, with a view to minimising the frequencies and periods of the bypass episodes;
- (2) the DSD had particularly engaged a consultant to conduct a detailed water quality modeling for the bypass episodes. The modeling predicted that the impact brought by the bypass on the water quality of Victoria Harbour would be slight and short-term. To take the beach as an example, the level of the beach water quality was within the range of acceptable indicators;
- (3) apart from the eight beaches, the fish culture zone in Ma Wan was also the monitoring point of the DSD. As the fish culture zone was far away from the locations of bypasses, the modeling predicted that the E. coli level would be far lower than the upper limit of acceptable indicator and the level of dissolved oxygen would remain considerably high;
- (4) the facilities of the HATS Stage 1 had been put into service for over 16 years since the operation started. Over the years, none of the maintenance works similar to the bypass of this type had ever been arranged because it would take longer for the conduct of the bypass if

repair works for the penstocks of the only MPS1 was carried out in the old days. Now that the sewage flows could be conveyed through the existing MPS2 and the interconnection tunnel, which was completed in 2017, the period required for the bypass was, in turn, greatly shortened. Hence, the DSD took this opportunity to carry out the preventive maintenance works timely;

- (5) the DSD had all along carried out the repair and maintenance work timely for all the facilities in the SCISTW, which was the largest one among the same type of sewage treatment works worldwide. Also, the matching facilities were equipped for every sewage treatment process as appropriate, including the backup facilities, to cater for the needs of making repairs. The bypasses were arranged not because of the design issue, but because of the suspension of the water inflow through the two penstocks involved, which were located distinctively at the outermost part of the MPS1, during the maintenance works;
- (6) the HATS Stage 1 was planned 30 years ago and was constructed about 20 years ago. The penstocks of the MPS1 were adopted according to the prevailing standard and the life expectancy was generally 15 to 20 years. Currently, the service life of the penstocks had expired. The preventive maintenance works included the replacement of the penstocks made of new materials with the anticipated longer life expectancy;
- (7) in future, the interconnection tunnel which were built recently to convey the sewage flows to MPS2 would facilitate the regular preventive examination, repair and maintenance work for the newly-built penstocks in achieving the enhanced stability and reliability of the whole system;
- (8) the high volume and speed of tidal stream of the Rambler Channel was conducive to diluting, dissipating and purifying the sewage during the bypasses. The modeling predicted that only a slight impact would be brought by the discharge of sewage to the environs. The DSD would closely monitor the nearby water quality during the bypasses; and
- (9) when conducting the monitoring on water quality, the DSD did not only carry out the tests for E. coli level, but also screened a series of related indicators of water quality. The relevant data would be released at the DSD's webpage as early as practicable for public's information.

22. The Chairman opined that it was necessary to carry out the maintenance works. He pointed out that the inhibitors such as calcium nitrate were conducive to minimising the odour of Tsuen Wan harbourfront. He hoped that the DSD and EPD would apply such an inhibitor or relevant facilities during the maintenance works in order to minimise the odour of Tsuen Wan harbourfront.

23. CE/HATS of the DSD stated that he would convey the Chairman's request for application of odour control measures on addressing the odour nuisances in the outfalls at Tsuen Wan harbourfront to the staff members of the DSD who undertook the operation and repair work for follow-ups.

24. Mr WONG Ka-wa hoped that the departments concerned would provide the monitoring locations of marine water sampling for Members and inform the operators of the rafts in Ma Wan of the relevant situations.

25. The Chairman summarised that the TWDC supported the maintenance works and hoped that the unpleasant odour of Tsuen Wan harbourfront would be further minimised. The departments concerned could contact the Chairman and the Vice Chairman of the CAC for follow-ups if there were any reports.

V Item 4: Draft Siu Ho Wan Outline Zoning Plan No. S/I-SHW/B
(TWDC Paper No. 117/17-18)

26. The Chairman stated that the Planning Department (PD) briefed Members on the draft Siu Ho Wan Outline Zoning Plan No. S/I-SHW/B (the draft OZP). The representatives from the PD attending the meeting were:

- (1) Ms TAM Yin-ping, Donna, District Planning Officer/Sai Kung & Islands (DPO/SK&I); and
- (2) Mr SIU Yee-lin, Richard, Senior Town Planner/Islands 1 (STP/I1).

27. STP/I1 of the PD introduced the paper.

28. The Chairman stated that for Members' information, only a small area of the draft OZP fell within Tsuen Wan district.

29. Mr WONG Ka-wa said that the vehicular and passenger flows from Siu Ho Wan might pass Tsuen Wan despite only a small area of the draft OZP fell within Tsuen Wan district. Hence, he hoped that the PD would study whether the planning would trigger an excessive passenger flow, in addition to the worshippers travelling to the columbarium in Tsuen Wan district during the Spring and Autumn Ancestral Offerings Ceremonies every year, leading to the overloaded road capacity if there were no railway station in Siu Ho Wan. Hence, he hoped that the PD would clearly explain the details on the ancillary facilities for the excessive traffic flow; and whether a railway station would be provided in Siu Ho Wan. Moreover, he pointed out that the Green Belt only covered 36.57% of the total area in the draft OZP and the development thereof would cause more pollution. He hoped that the PD would scale up the planning of the Green Belt.

30. Mr LO Siu-kit stated that the current planning of the columbarium was different from that introduced at the meeting of the TWDC earlier, i.e. the location of the columbarium was changed from the eastern and western ends to a site near the waterfront, which was a more satisfactory planning. He believed that there were fewer dissenting views against the construction of the columbarium at the said location. Besides, he enquired whether a spur line could be derived from the existing expressway to serve as a substitute of the existing minor road for a direct vehicular access to the columbarium. Moreover, he hoped that the number of niches would be increased for better use of the land resources if the transport ancillary facilities were duly complementary to the development.

31. Mr TAM Hoi-pong said he thought that the draft OZP was of relevance to Tsuen Wan and the properties atop the Siu Ho Wan Depot were also of relevance to Ma Wan and Tsuen Wan. He added that the Tung Chung Line facilitated the accessibility of other places via Tsing Ma Bridge and the major means of transport in Ma Wan also took the routes via Tsing Yi. However, he learnt that Tsing Ma Bridge

could only support the construction of the two-way dual railway tracks due to the limit to physics. He enquired such a limit was factually correct, which in turn, making it impossible to enhance the train frequency of the Tung Chung Line. He also opined that the residential units in both Siu Ho Wan and Ma Wan were troubled by the aircraft noise and raised objection to the proposal on construction of private housing only. He hoped that the PD would make proposal to the Transport and Housing Bureau (THB) for consideration of the construction of mixed housing. In addition, he pointed out that the traffic load incurred by the development projects in Tung Chung East, Siu Ho Wan and Ma Wan South would be absorbed by the Tung Chung Line and Tsing Ma Bridge in future. Once there was traffic gridlock at Tsing Ma Bridge, there was no other means of transport for the residents to travel from Ma Wan to the urban area. Hence, he raised objection to the number of residential units which would be built in Siu Ho Wan in the draft OZP. Besides, he hoped that the PD would consider the carrying capacity of Tsing Ma Bridge seriously.

32. Mr NG Hin-lung, Norris said he believed that the draft OZP mainly aimed to take forward the development of Siu Ho Wan Depot. He pointed out that the residential development in Siu Ho Wan was less controversial and it was also appropriate to use the land therein to increase the housing supply. He further pointed out that the height of the residential buildings ranged from 86 mPD to 106 mPD. The closer the buildings to the waterfront, the lower the building height. However, he learnt that the PD would make variations to the measures on the development of Siu Ho Wan in different periods. Thus, he enquired whether the PD had already formulated a long-term proposal on the overall development of Siu Ho Wan or its overall development would only be considered after the development of Siu Ho Wan Depot was taken forward. Besides, he said that the North West Tsing Yi Interchange was currently a traffic bottleneck in the New Territories West. The vehicles on Tuen Mun Road heading to the urban area mostly took the route via the North West Tsing Yi Interchange. Following the population growth in Siu Ho Wan in future, not only would traffic gridlocks be triggered at the North West Tsing Yi Interchange, but also the traffic congestion in Tsuen Wan would become more deteriorated. Hence, he suggested that a railway should be constructed in order to improve the traffic problems.

33. DPO/SK&I of the PD responded as follows:

- (1) the PD understood Members' worries over the impacts on traffic and development in Tsuen Wan district brought by the development of Siu Ho Wan. Hence, the PD had already considered the impacts on traffic carefully when preparing for the draft OZP;
- (2) the draft OZP was prepared with a view to providing a framework for the development of Siu Ho Wan Depot site. It was proposed to allow the development atop the Siu Ho Wan Depot but the scale and form of the development, urban design concept, future traffic flow and facilities were not finalised. The project proponent was required to submit the relevant layout plan and all technical assessments as well as the proposal which addressed the impacts on the traffic nearby and other infrastructure brought by the development to the Town Planning Board (TPB) for consideration;

- (3) in response to the use of railway-related sites for development as stated in the Policy Address, the MTRCL had already conducted the technical assessments on the development atop the Siu Ho Wan Depot, including the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and the preliminary assessment on the traffic flow. According to the current proposal from the MTRCL, the MTRCL considered providing a railway station for the development atop the Siu Ho Wan Depot, so as to provide train service for the residents in Siu Ho Wan. After enhancement of the plan, the MTRCL would submit the development proposal to the TPB for consideration of the relevant traffic issues;
- (4) as North Lantau might be affected by the aircraft noise, the project proponent was required to make proposals as appropriate in future, including the noise mitigation measures;
- (5) the reclamation in Siu Ho Wan was proposed in the Government's study earlier. Also, the Feasibility Study on Reclamation Outside Victoria Harbour was conducted to ensure the feasibility of the reclamation works. However, the Government did not have a finalised plan for the time being;
- (6) the development of the columbarium at the location concerned was under the purview of the TWDC. The Food and Health Bureau (FHB) and FEHD had already consulted the TWDC on this matter. Also, the FHB and FEHD had taken into consideration Members' views and integrated the two columbaria which were originally located at the eastern and western ends into one larger columbarium. The latest proposal was also illustrated in the draft OZP currently. The PD would convey Members' views on the passenger flow and traffic arrangement to the departments concerned. It was believed that the departments concerned would brief the TWDC on the project for the columbarium upon completion of its detailed design and traffic assessment; and
- (7) the development atop the Siu Ho Wan Depot was put under statutory planning control for the approved commercial and residential developments through the draft OZP. The Government had not finalised the supply of public housing or the public-private housing ratio in the development of Siu Ho Wan for the time being.

(Note: The Hon CHAN Han-pan, Ben joined the meeting at 4:18 p.m.)

34. Mr TAM Hoi-pong said the MTRCL had already released the blueprint for Siu Ho Wan through press release in January 2018. In the blueprint, there were too many buildings which were completely private buildings and the layout arrangement was very compacted. Hence, he raised objection to the said development plan. Also, he hoped that the Government would conduct a cumulative traffic assessment on the development projects of Tung Chung East, Tung Chung West, Siu Ho Wan and Ma Wan South in future, in order to study whether the Tsing Ma Bridge could absorb the traffic flow under its existing carrying capacity. He pointed out that currently, the turning of the Ting Kau Bridge connecting the Tsing Ma Bridge was a one-lane carriageway. Previously, he had requested the Government to make improvement for it. However, according to the Highways Department (HyD), an additional lane could not be created at the said location. It could be seen that the problem remained

unresolved. Besides, he opined that the Government should be aware of the fact that problems would arise if all the projects were under development at the same time. As such, only some of the projects should be selected for development. Moreover, he suggested that the Government should not proceed with the development project in Ma Wan South and should reduce the number of residential units in Siu Ho Wan.

35. Mr WONG Ka-wa hoped that the PD would study whether the railway could be extended to Ma Wan. He pointed out that although the residential buildings in Siu Ho Wan did not fall within Tsuen Wan district, he hoped that the Government would construct a footbridge connecting the columbarium, so that members of the public could walk to the columbarium.

36. Mr NG Hin-lung, Norris noted that the Government wished to increase the housing supply. However, he opined that the zoning of the respective area for Other Specified Uses directly by the Government in addition to the provision of the blueprint by the project proponent was a retrogressive move, compared with the conduct of planning by the Government. Moreover, he hoped that the PD would take into account the issue of connectivity with other districts. He suggested that the PD should firstly explore the connectivity with other districts from the development in Siu Ho Wan and thereafter the project proponent conducted the planning. He believed that such an approach was conducive to achieving a well-structured planning.

37. DPO/SK&I of the PD responded as follows:

- (1) the MTRCL had conducted the preliminary assessment including the statutory EIA according to the Government's policy and submitted the development proposal to the Government, in order to justify the environmental acceptability and technical feasibility of the development atop the Siu Ho Wan Depot. These information were noted by the PD at the present stage. According to the Town Planning Ordinance (Chapter 131), after the draft OZP was prepared, the project proponent was required to submit the development proposal containing the detailed studies to the TPB for consideration. Hence, the said development proposal had neither been accepted by the Government currently nor been finalised accordingly;
- (2) the preliminary plan of the MTRCL aimed to ensure the technical feasibility of the development atop the Siu Ho Wan Depot. Currently, the Government did not have a finalised plan for construction of additional public housing in future. The government departments concerned would explore and discuss the matter;
- (3) the Sustainable Lantau Office, which was set up by the Government in late 2017, would conduct a study on the overall traffic capacity of the developments in Lantau including the northern shore of Lantau and explore the difficulties and technical problems of developing external transport links, with a view to figuring out if there was a need of provision of internal and external transports links on Lantau for implementation of the relevant projects;
- (4) the FHB and FEHD were currently conducting a further study on the design and transport arrangements for the columbarium. The TWDC

would be briefed on the project for the columbarium upon completion of the relevant work; and

- (5) the PD had already set out a list of requirements for urban design in the Explanatory Statement when preparing the draft OZP, including the height limit of buildings as well as the requirements for connectivity inside and outside Siu Ho Wan and with the waterfront. The development would only be approved after the project proponent made suitable and practicable proposals in respect of the development for the blueprint which was submitted to the TPB for consideration in future.

38. The Chairman summarised that some places in the draft OZP were located within Tsuen Wan district. He believed that the PD would continue to seek the TWDC's advice on it in future. Besides, he hoped that the PD would assist in improving the traffic problems of the columbarium, so that a direct access to the columbarium via the expressway instead of the existing minor road could be provided.

VI Item 5: Request for Provision of a Covered Walkway from Yau Ma Hom Road to Cheung Wing Road

(TWDC Paper No. 118/17-18)

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

- (1) Mr CHONG Kwok-wai, District Engineer/Tsuen Wan (DE/TW), HyD;
- (2) Mr CHEUNG Kim-hung, Michael, Engineer/Tsuen Wan 2 (E/TW2), Transport Department (TD);
- (3) Miss LO Pui-yiu, Sapphire, District Lands Officer (District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing) (DLO(DLO, TW&KT)), Lands Department (Lands D); and
- (4) Mr TSE Hing-chit, Administrative Assistant/Lands (District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing) (AA/L(DLO, TW&KT)), Lands D.

Besides, the written replies of the PD, Lands D and MTRCL were tabled at the meeting.

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

41. Mr WONG Ka-wa added that the proposals on provision of additional facilities from the district councillors of the constituency areas were rejected due to the construction of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link. He pointed out that the villagers of the villages concerned were the elder people whose mobility was declining and many new properties in the vicinity of Kwok Shui Road were completed. Hence, he hoped that an escalator would be constructed for residents' use. He further pointed out that the recreational and sports facilities were inadequate in the district. In addition, he hoped that the site in question could be vacated for the use as a temporary car park for large tourist coaches before planning.

42. E/TW2 of the TD said that the TD had taken up the construction works of the covered walkway and was conducting the study and design for it according to Members' views. It was hoped that a district consultation could be carried out after the Chinese New Year holiday. If positive feedback was gauged in the district

consultation and there were not many changes in the design of the covered walkway, the TD would commission the HyD to conduct an in-depth study and draw up the schedule of construction.

43. DE/TW of the HyD stated that the HyD would conduct a preliminary technical assessment after receiving the proposal from the TD.

44. DLO(DLO, TW&KT) of the Lands D said that the site in question was currently a temporary construction site of the HyD. According to the departments concerned, the site would be handed over to the Lands D on 1 March 2018 as scheduled. The Lands D would tie in with the TD's schedule of construction of the covered walkway and provide the site for the department to conduct the works in due course. Besides, the Lands D would provide land to gear up to the confirmed long-term development plans of relevant departments, if any.

45. Mr CHAN Yuen-sum, Sumly enquired about the period and scale of construction of the covered walkway, so that members of the public would get to know the commissioning date of the covered walkway. Also, he enquired the TD whether a roof cover and lighting system were included in the design of the covered walkway.

46. The Chairman requested the representatives of the TD and HyD to contact the district councillors of the constituency areas directly for discussion of the details after the meeting.

VII Item 6: "Strongly Request the District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing to Regularly Submit a Detailed Management Report, in particular the Serial Numbers and Locations of the Display of Non-commercial Publicity Materials at the Roadsides of All Areas in Tsuen Wan, and Release the Approved Serial Numbers and Locations of the Display of Non-commercial Publicity Materials by Members of all Levels/Organisations/Institutes on its Website On a Bi-monthly Basis for Effective Monitoring by the Tsuen Wan District Council in order to Prevent the Unnecessary Disputes and Lawsuits."
(TWDC Paper No. 119/17-18)

47. The Chairman stated that Mr CHOW Ping-tim submitted the paper. The representatives from the Lands D responsible for giving response were:

- (1) Miss LO Pui-yiu, Sapphire, DLO(DLO, TW&KT); and
- (2) Mr TSE Hing-chit, AA/L(DLO, TW&KT).

Besides, the written reply of the Lands D was tabled at the meeting.

48. Mr CHOW Ping-tim introduced the paper.

49. The Hon CHAN Han-pan, Ben said he was a victim of circumstances, too. He thought that the existing management mode, law enforcement work and approach of handling complaints of banners were not proper. Even though Members had put up banners at approved locations, on which the approved numbers were found missing due to various reasons at times, these banners were required to be removed because they were deemed to be not complying with the requirements and Members were required to pay the penalties. Even worse, Members were fined double penalty if the

names of two Members were printed on the banners. He opined that the Lands D should not remove Members' banners at its approved locations for display purpose if Members did not breach any laws and regulations. He pointed out that some localities put up banners anywhere they wished during Friday nights, but the staff of the Lands D did not carry out law enforcement work on Saturdays and Sundays. As a result, these banners were displayed for three days without being removed. Hence, he hoped that the Lands D would adopt a simpler mode on execution of the relevant mechanism and strengthen the communication with Members.

50. Ms LAM Yuen-pun, Phyllis said the purpose of display of banners was to enable the residents in the district to know more about the Members' work and foster the communication between Members and residents. Some of the residents had relayed to her that the latest news about her on the banners at the designated spots were inaccessible to them. Hence, she hoped that the Lands D would change the designated spots for display of her banners. She pointed out that during the last DC term, the Lands D had allowed to make changes of the designated spots for display of banners. However, during the current DC term, her request was turned down by the Lands D which indicated that the designated spots for display of banners were finalised and no changes could be made. She thought that the purpose of provision of designated spots for display of Members' banners was to maintain a good communication between Members and the general public. Hence, she hoped that the Lands D would adjust the prevailing practice in order to meet the public's demand.

51. Mr LAM Faat-kang stated that he was a victim of circumstances, too. He suggested that the contractors of the Lands D should handle the complaints upon receipt without delay, in particular, the complaints on the banners put up unlawfully in the afternoon on Fridays. He also hoped that the Lands D would study the corresponding measures to plug the loopholes. In addition, the contractors of the Lands D removed the banners directly as referred by the staff of the Lands D who found errors on banners during inspections without informing the Members concerned. He thought that the Lands D should inform Members of the mistakes on banners after the designated spots were allocated to them, instead of taking law enforcement actions immediately. He opined that the prevailing practice was adopted callously that was unfair to Members.

52. Ms LAM, Lam Nixie said in her views, the mechanism on notification and law enforcement of display of banners could be improved. Her constituency area included the zones of Belvedere Garden, City Point and The Dynasty. However, as she was not allocated with any designated spots for display of banners around City Point and The Dynasty, she was unable to carry out the publicity work or inform the residents of local affairs through the banners at the said locations. She thought that it was undesirable. Besides, she had made application to the Lands D for exchange of the quota of designated spot for display of banners in Belvedere Garden with that in thereabouts but no reply of affirmation was received from the Lands D till present. As the Lands D had indicated that the locations for display of banners around City Point and The Dynasty were not allocated to her due to the transport issues, she enquired about the reasons for prohibiting her from displaying banners at the said locations after the DC election, whereas no transport issues came up when she put up banners therein during the DC election. Moreover, she had made a complaint on the

display of banner in the name of a non-governmental organisation (NGO) by a political party. The Lands D, however, responded that the display of banner in the name of NGO was allowed. In this connection, she enquired the Lands D about the criteria of making such judgements and thought that the prevailing practices were undesirable. Furthermore, she learnt that a Member and certain commercial organisations had put up banners unlawfully on Friday nights and removed the banners before Mondays. She opined that the unlawful acts were not addressed effectively by the law enforcement actions of the Lands D. She also enquired how the Lands D handled such a situation.

53. DLO(DLO, TW&KT) of the Lands D responded as follows:

- (1) the Lands D carried out the management work for the display of roadside non-commercial publicity materials according to the Management Scheme for the Display of Roadside Non-commercial Publicity Materials (Management Scheme) which had been implemented since 2003. Currently, the revised guidelines of the Management Scheme, which had been implemented for a period of time, had included the views from local communities or district councillors;
- (2) there were about 23 000 designated spots for display of banners over the territory. In Tsuen Wan, there were about 1 033 designated spots, of which approximately 80% were for the use of TWDC Members and the LegCo Members of Geographical Constituencies or Functional Constituencies (FCs). The remaining designated spots would be allocated for the use of the committees under the TWDC, other government departments and non-profit-making organisations;
- (3) upon receipt of the complaints on unlawful display of banners, the contractors of the Lands D would confirm whether the approval was granted for the banners under complaints and whether they were displayed according to the guidelines. After the case was substantiated for violation of guidelines, the contractors of the Lands D would refer the case to the FEHD for follow-ups and would arrange the staff to remove the unlawful banners together with the staff of the FEHD by tying in with the timetable of law enforcement actions of the FEHD. The Lands D would give a reply to the complainant on the result of investigation and referral action subsequently; and
- (4) the Lands D did not have the mandate of taking law enforcement actions which were undertaken by the FEHD. The Lands D was solely responsible for providing assistance in making confirmation of the locations in question and of the banners in violation of any rules in the Implementation Guidelines of the Management Scheme for the FEHD. Therefore, the Lands D was unable to serve notification before the FEHD carried out the law enforcement actions.

(Note: Mr CHAN Yuen-sum, Sumly left the meeting at 5:14 p.m.)

54. The Chairman stated that according to the representative of the Lands D, the law enforcement actions were taken by the FEHD. Hence, he requested the representative of the FEHD to give response.

55. CHI2(TW) of the FEHD said that the banners were displayed for commercial or non-commercial purpose. According to the law, the FEHD was dedicated to taking the law enforcement work proactively for the banners which were displayed for commercial purpose. In addition, according to the Implementation Guidelines of the Management Scheme, the Lands D was dedicated to handling the display of banners for non-commercial purpose. The FEHD had tied in with the Lands D to take joint actions for about eight occasions each month on an irregular basis. The FEHD would immediately remove the unlawful banners which were confirmed by the Lands D during the joint actions in pursuant to section 104C of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Chapter 132).

56. The Chairman stated that the display of banners served as a platform for the elected Members to carry out publicities and communicate with the general public. Thus, he enquired the Lands D about the measures on optimising the Management Scheme and plugging the loopholes; and the reasons for imposing double penalty on the display of unlawful banners on which the names of two Members were spotted.

57. DLO(DLO, TW&KT) of the Lands D said the Lands D did not impose any fees on the application of display of banners from Members or NGOs. The FEHD would claim the removal expenses against the parties concerned in accordance with the law after removal of the unlawful banners.

58. CHI2(TW) of the FEHD stated that the FEHD would calculate the public funds for taking the actions concerned. The beneficiaries on the banners being removed should pay the removal expenses on an equal basis.

59. Mr CHOW Ping-tim said that in reply, the Lands D did not clarify the principles for confirmation of unlawful banners and whether a banner of four approval numbers was deemed to be unlawful. The Lands D only mentioned about the fundamental basis for law enforcement. He thought that the Lands D should grant approval for display of banners on the one hand and take law enforcement actions on the other. If the Lands D was reluctant to handle the issue, its surrender of authority was certainly justifiable. Besides, the Lands D should clearly advise the FEHD of the standard of law enforcement; otherwise, it was difficult for the FEHD to carry out the law enforcement work. Members probably made mistakes in display of banners in a moment of oversight, so he hoped that the Lands D would inform the Members concerned when making confirmation of unlawful banners, with a view to strengthening the mutual communication. He suggested that the Lands D should release the approved serial numbers and locations of the display of non-commercial publicity materials by Members of all levels/organisations/institutes on its website for an effective monitoring by the TWDC.

(Note: Mr WONG Ka-wa left the meeting at 5:21 p.m.)

60. The Chairman stated that Members' names should have been printed on the banners. Hence, he suggested that the Lands D should establish a notification mechanism on informing the Members of making rectifications before the banners were removed. If the Members did not make any rectifications, the Lands D would not be blamed for taking law enforcement actions. He pointed out that some

commercial organisations exploited the vulnerability of the Management Scheme for an intended prolonged publicity period on Saturdays and Sundays by displaying banners on Friday nights and removing banners before Mondays. It was unfair to the law-abiders.

61. AA/L(DLO, TW&KT) of the Lands D responded as follows:
- (1) according to the Management Scheme, the Lands D was authorised to grant approval solely for the application of display of banners. The Lands D did not have power to take any law enforcement actions;
 - (2) it was specified in the Implementation Guidelines of the Management Scheme that the FEHD would not give any prior notices when carrying out the law enforcement work. The Lands D pointed out that where some banners displayed on Friday nights were found unlawful, if prior notices for rectification of these unlawful banners were served to the parties concerned after the office hours, the parties concerned would remove the banners or display the banners at other locations before Mondays to evade the penalties. To curb the irregularity and apply a fairness principle for all applicants, the Lands D would promptly notify the FEHD of the banners which were found non-compliance with the rules specified in the Implementation Guidelines of the Management Scheme upon receipt of complaints or inspections and the FEHD would make arrangements for removal of banners;
 - (3) the Lands D believed that the delivery of documents by fax as mentioned by the Member took place during the LegCo Election in 2010. At that time, the Lands D was required to request all Members to remove the banners during the same period through delivering documents in full to them within a tight timeframe. As such, the Lands D delivered the documents by fax, with a view to distributing the documents to the Members the soonest possible. Also, the Lands D had instructed its contractors to make phone calls to the recipients to acknowledge the receipt of documents after delivering documents by fax in future;
 - (4) the Lands D would not carry out inspections targeting any political parties, organisations or individuals. The Lands D would carry out inspections upon receipt of complaints and at irregular intervals;
 - (5) the Lands D was unable to ensure that all unlawful cases were handled instantly because it took longer for the two departments involved in the management and law enforcement work to communicate with each other;
 - (6) with a view to ensuring the safety of pedestrians and motorists under the display of banners, the Lands D would delineate the designated spots for display of banners upon seeking advice from the departments concerned after the DC or LegCo Election of each term. Then, the Lands D would allocate ten designated spots to each DC Member, 50 designated spots to each elected Member and each FC Member of the LegCo, and 30 designated spots to each DC for display of banners according to the Implementation Guidelines of the Management Scheme. Under general circumstances, the Lands D did not grant approval for any change of the selected designated spot for display of banner. However, the Lands D would exercise discretion in handling the circumstances which was affected by environmental factors. Members in need could contact the Lands D for follow-ups after the meeting;

- (7) generally, no changes were made on the designated spots for display of banners after the election period. The Lands D would study in detail and follow up on the Member's request for provision of additional designated spots for display of banners in the constituency area;
- (8) the contractors of the Lands D would handle the cases of display of banners unlawfully without delay. Basically, confirmation could be made as to whether the case under complaint was substantiated or not on the day of the complaint received. Yet, the Lands D probably did not take the joint action daily because it was required to tie in with the timetable of law enforcement work of the FEHD. The Lands D would discuss with the departments concerned and consider whether there was a genuine need for an increase of the law enforcement sessions; and
- (9) under general circumstances, the Lands D would consider the identity of the ultimate beneficiary when handling the applications from the NGOs. It was also understood that there would be exploitation of vulnerability of the Implementation Guidelines of the Management Scheme to reach the purpose of display of banners. The Lands D had stipulated the guidelines on approval of the applications of display of banners. In brief, the shares in space occupied by the ultimate beneficiary in the banner should not be less than that occupied by the borrowing organisation or co-organiser in the banner at the location concerned.

(Note: Mr KOT Siu-yuen left the meeting at 5:31 p.m.)

62. Mr LAM Faat-kang said he hoped that the Lands D would handle the unlawful situations timely. He thought that district councillors should also serve the general public whole-heartedly, not merely through the publicity by banners, so he was not worried about the display of banners by someone else at the designated spots in his constituency area which were allocated to him. However, he opined that the Lands D did not take law enforcement action for the unlawful acts due to its confusing policies. It was quite unfair to the law-abiders who were imposed penalties by the FEHD due to putting up banners mistakenly in a moment of oversight. Hence, he thought that the Lands D should establish a mechanism on notification for Members to learn that their banners were put up mistakenly.

63. Mr LO Siu-kit stated that his banners had been removed by the Lands D, but he thought that the Lands D only carried out duties according to the laws. He pointed out that although Members regularly followed up on the banners after they were put up, the straps of some banners were probably damaged. He opined that the actions taken by the Lands D under the benchmark of unlawfulness on the banners in display without being fixed tightly, with ruins and damages or a blur of approval number thereon were too stringent. Hence, he thought that the Lands D should launch the measures to address such a situation. Besides, he pointed out that as the DC Election completed earlier than the LegCo Election, the Lands D might provide ten locations by preference of DC Members for display of their banners and re-allocate the locations of display of banners after the LegCo Election. As such, DC Members would have an opportunity to put up banners at the locations by their preference. Otherwise, it would be very difficult to make changes after the locations of display of banners were allocated to the LegCo Members.

64. Mr CHENG Chit-pun said he was a victim of circumstances, too. He pointed out that an approval was granted for display of his banners without his tenure thereon but later, they were removed out of a sudden. Currently, there were some not ideal designated spots for display of banners provided by the Lands D for Members' selection. Members could, in turn, give suggestions on the locations for display of banners by preference to the Lands D. After he put forth suggestions in 2016, it was indicated in the reply from the contractor of the Lands D that his suggestions were not approved due to the impact on traffic brought by the suggested locations. Subsequently, however, he found that the locations suggested by him were used for display of banners during the LegCo Election. Thus, he enquired the Lands D about the reasons for applying the double standard; and whether the criteria of approval were set up by the Lands D or its contractors. Moreover, he suggested that the Lands D should replace the contractors for underperformance, if any.

65. Ms LAM, Lam Nixie said she believed that the Lands D did not consider the allocation of the locations of railings in the new constituency areas when demarcating the new constituency areas for Tsuen Wan district. In the DC Election of this term, a housing estate, namely, City Point was added to her constituency area. During the DC Election, she was allocated a location for display of banner near City Point, but her application of display of banner at such a location after the DC Election was unsuccessful. She hoped that the Lands D would consider Members' aspirations for provision of additional locations for display of banners in the new constituency areas and allocation of these locations for Members' use. She pointed out that Members could provide the FEHD with the photos of the advertisements containing the information of the beneficiaries which were put up on the lamppost unlawfully and the FEHD would take actions against the relevant parties after receiving the photos. Thus, she enquired whether the Lands D would follow suit by imposing penalties on the parties who put up banners unlawfully in order to enhance the strength of the law enforcement. Moreover, she would like to clarify that the organisation in the above-mentioned example was a local organisation but not a NGO. The banner in question of the local organisation was only printed with the words such as "Happy New Year" and a person's photo. She disagreed with the Lands D that the residents were benefitted by the banner in question and hoped that the Lands D would re-examine the similar types of applications.

66. The Vice Chairman stated that he was a victim of circumstances, too. He hoped that the Lands D would assist Members in identifying the suitable locations for display of banners in their constituency areas. Members had referred the cases concerned to the Lands D and met its contractor, but to no avail. He thought that it was not favourable and hoped that the Lands D would assist in following up Members' applications of identifying the locations for display of banners after the meeting. He pointed out that after the implementation of the new policy, the Lands D would remove the unlawful banners once detected. He had adapted to the new policy and hoped that the Lands D would adopt a fairness principle when enforcing the law. However, someone exploited the vulnerability of the policy by displaying banners unlawfully on Saturdays and Sundays. Disappointingly, the new policy failed to eradicate such an unlawful situation. He thought that it was unfair to those who abided by the laws and those who exploited the vulnerability of the policy were

benefitted. Hence, he hoped that the Lands D would recognise the real problem. In addition, he opined that the standard adopted by the contractors of the Lands D in handling the complaint cases was problematic. For example, one of his banners was removed due to complaints but the unlawful banner next to his was not removed under complaints. He expressed dissatisfaction to it and hoped that the Lands D would review the operation of its contractors in handling complaints.

67. Mr CHOW Ping-tim said that the Lands D did not respond to his enquiry as to whether a banner of four approval numbers was deemed to be unlawful. He pointed out that it was specified in the Implementation Guidelines of the Management Scheme that "Once allocated, no transfer, loaning out or assignment of the designated spots by a user is allowed." Thus, he enquired why the Lands D did not respond to his enquiry. He stressed that he requested the Lands D for stipulating a clear mechanism and requested the Lands D for making a special arrangement only for a dozen of district councillors who put up banners in Tsuen Wan district. Also, such a special arrangement was not required to be made for the unlawful parties. He pointed out that the Lands D had approved the designated spots for Members' use and Members' photos were printed on their banners. He felt puzzled about the removal of banners due to minor mistakes and hoped that the Lands D would release the approved serial numbers and locations of the display of non-commercial publicity materials by Members of all levels/organisations/institutes on its website for Members' information clearly in order to avert the unfairness in law enforcement. He pointed out that the courts refused the documents by fax and only acknowledged the documents by post. On top of that, the mails by post locally could be delivered to the recipients in two days through Hongkong Post. It would be even better if the mails could be delivered by registered post. Hence, he disagreed with the Lands D's practice of acknowledging the receipt of documents by fax through phone calls. He also thought that the Lands D should set up a reasonable timeframe for removal of unlawful banners. Moreover, the phenomenon of exploitation of the vulnerability of the policy by displaying banners unlawfully on Saturdays and Sundays had existed for some time and many political parties had done that. He hoped that the Lands D would make improvements seriously and handled all cases in a fair manner.

68. DLO(DLP, TW&KT) of the Lands D responded as follows:

- (1) the banners served as a platform for Members to promote more information about the district for non-commercial purpose to benefit the general public. The Lands D would contact the Members concerned after the meeting for the request of setting up the designated spots for display of banners in the newly-developed zones of the respective constituency area and the follow-up work on the applications of swapping the designated spots for display of banners;
- (2) currently, the Lands D would conduct the joint actions by tying in with the timetable of law enforcement of the FEHD. The law enforcement work had also been conducted on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays for removal of the unlawful banners, with a view to eradicating the exploitation of vulnerability of the policy. However, the complaints were not handled timely because of the heavy workload at times. The Lands D would discuss with the FEHD on handling the complaints on the following Saturdays or Sundays as soon as practicable after receiving them on Fridays;

- (3) the Lands D would review the standard of handling complaints by its contractors. The Lands D would also instruct its contractors to pay more attention and remain cautious when carrying out duties; and
- (4) the Lands D would contact the Member after the meeting to learn more about the details of the case in which four approval numbers were found on a banner. According to the Implementation Guidelines of the Management Scheme, each character/digit of the approval number and display period at the top right-hand corner of each publicity material must not be smaller than 2.5 cm x 2.5 cm. This requirement was duly complied if such information was contained in the banner.

69. The Chairman stated that the display of banners was one of the important channel of communication between the elected Members and the general public. He requested the Lands D to consider Members' views and aspirations and review the measures on optimising the Management Scheme. Besides, he opined that the Lands D should exercise discretion in handling the cases of respective Members who made mistakes due to oversight by giving them an interval of three hours to rectify the banners. Also, the Lands D should communicate with the Members directly in order to ensure the smoother cooperation in future.

VIII Item 7: Make Good Use of the Reserve to Enhance the Measures on Aged Care and Elderly Services in Tsuen Wan
(TWDC Paper No. 120/17-18)

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

- (1) Mr WONG Kwok-chun, Alex, District Social Welfare Officer (Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing) (DSWO(TW/KT), SWD; and
- (2) Dr LOH Lai-ting, Taron, Senior Medical & Health Officer (Community Liaison) 1 (SMO(CL)1), Department of Health (DH).

Besides, the written replies of the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau, Innovation and Technology Bureau, FHB and DH, Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB) and SWD, Inland Revenue Department, Education Bureau (EDB), Rating and Valuation Department, and Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority were tabled at the meeting.

71. Ms LAM, Lam Nixie introduced the paper.

72. Mr CHAN Chun-chung, Jones supported the Member's paper. He opined that the Government had a large surplus currently and should enhance the measures on aged care and elderly services. He pointed out that many elder people relayed to him that financial independence was remained among some married couples. Hence, he suggested that the Government should adopt the approach of separate taxation on couples for the elder people to make application for the Old Age Living Allowance (OALA) and Old Age Allowance (OAA) individually.

73. Ms LAM Yuen-pun, Phyllis supported the Member's paper. She learnt that the elder people in the district were willing to continue to stay in the workforce. Although the elder people did not mind the level of pay, she hoped that the Government would consider the secured pay higher than the statutory minimum wage for the elder people aged 65 or above. Moreover, the cancer patients undergoing

treatments with the targeted therapy drugs were not subsidised currently and the older cancer patients might not be able to endure the side effects of chemotherapies. Hence, she hoped that the Government would make good use of the large surplus and consider providing more support for the cancer patients who consumed the targeted therapy drugs.

74. Mr MAN Yu-ming supported the Member's paper. He opined that making good use of the surplus of the treasury was essential. The quality of elderly service was deteriorating due to the shortage of manpower in the elderly care service industry for the time being. Hence, he thought that the Government should consider the establishment of a residential care home development fund for subsidising the private residential care homes. Besides, he supported the enhancement of the day care services for the elderly because there were demands from many elder people for different day care services. He pointed out that currently, a lot of retirees of late were physically fit with extensive work experience. Hence, he opined that it was necessary for the Government to provide assistance in elderly employment and career trainings, in order to increase the labour force for the industries with manpower shortage.

75. Mr LI Hung-por was of the view that the proposals in the paper were the long-term measures, so it was difficult to sustain these measures by merely using the fiscal surplus in the long run. He supported the proposal on rates exemption for the rateable properties which were owned and occupied by the elderly retirees. It could help reduce the living expenses of the elder people on the one hand, and did not impose a huge financial burden on the Government on the other. Moreover, he opined that the Mandatory Provident Fund scheme was unsatisfactory. He agreed on making available the funds linked to the return of the Exchange Fund and inflation, but a study on the technical arrangements should be conducted. Furthermore, he thought that the encouragement of elderly employment could relieve the pressure on the job market arising from the lack of manpower resources currently. Hence, he was concerned about the 9th and 10th proposals in the paper. He pointed out that some elder people might be incapable of taking care of themselves. The working young people had to take leave or even resign from their jobs to take care of them. As such, the young people would be under pressure. Hence, he opined that the provision of the day respite service for elderly could ensure the proper care for the elder people and the young people would feel free to work, resulting in the enhancement of the manpower resources in the job market.

76. Mr CHOW Ping-tim supported the lowering of the eligible age of the non-means-tested application of OAA to 65. He opined that the application threshold for the OALA with the asset limit of \$500,000 was too high in light of the soaring prices of the properties and niches nowadays. Hence, he suggested that the asset limit of the OALA should be relaxed to \$1,000,000.

(Note: The Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael joined the meeting at 6:10 p.m.)

77. Mr KOO Yeung-pong supported the Member's paper. He considered that in future, there was a trend of the population getting older in Hong Kong. He opined that the early provision of the Elderly Health Care Vouchers (EHVs) for the retirees could enable them to pay early attention to their health, with a view to alleviating the

burden of expenses on the public healthcare services and elderly services in future. Moreover, people lived longer nowadays and some elderly retirees possessed the financial and professional capabilities. The Government should set up facilities for fostering the elderly employment and encourage the elder people to take up employment again according to the demand in the job market.

78. DSWO(TW/KT) of the SWD responded as follows:

- (1) following the aging population, the SWD would endeavour to strive for resources, proactively identify the sites in Tsuen Wan district for establishment of new residential care homes and day care centres for the elderly and increase the supply of places, including Olive Nursing Home cum Day Care Unit for the Elderly in City Point and Caritas Jockey Club Everbright Home cum Luk Chan Suk Wing Day Care Centre for the Elderly. Besides, the day care centre for the elderly in Sheung Chui Court would soon be commissioned in March 2018, which would provide a quota of 80 places. In addition, the number of places in the residential care homes for the elderly in Tsuen Wan district was increased by 15% from about 1 800 in early 2017 to 2 062. The quota of the day care centres for the elderly was increased by 155% or 130 quotas from 84 to 214;
- (2) the SWD would relay Members' views on the relaxation of asset limit and lowering of the eligibility age of OAA as well as separate asset test for couples to the LWB;
- (3) the SWD would conduct an annual review on the income and asset limits of OALA and make adjustments according to the Social Security Assistance Index of Prices. Currently, the financial support from children was not calculated as part of the income. Also, the SWD would request the LWB to consider relaxing the policy;
- (4) the elderly care service industry came across difficulties in recruiting staff. To relieve the demand for manpower in the industry, it was mentioned in the 2018 Policy Address that the Government had earmarked \$1 billion for setting up a fund to subsidise elderly service units to trial use and procure technology products. Besides, the SWD had already raised the salary level of care worker and hoped that it would attract new entrants through recruitment and retention of existing care workers, in order to ease the shortage of manpower in the industry. In addition, the SWD would continue to implement the Navigation Scheme for Young Persons in Care Services to attract young people to join the elderly care service industry; and
- (5) the SWD was aware that there were difficulties in the operation of the privately-run residential care homes for the elderly. To relieve the operational difficulties and provide assistance in taking care of the weaker elder people in the privately-run residential care homes for the elderly, it was mentioned in the 2018 Policy Address that the Government would arrange the healthcare teams from public sector, which was comprised of the nurses, physiotherapists, dietitians and occupational therapists, to provide service in the privately-run residential care homes for the elderly.

79. SMO(CL)1 of the DH responded as follows:
- (1) the Government launched the EHV Scheme in 2009 to subsidise Hong Kong elders aged 70 or above to use primary care services provided by the private sector. Various enhancement measures were introduced since the implementation of the EHV Scheme. For example, the scheme was converted from a pilot project into a recurrent programme in 2014; the annual voucher amount for an eligible elder increased from the initial sum of \$250 to \$2,000 and the financial cap was revised upward to \$4,000; the face value of each voucher was changed from \$50 to \$1 to make it more convenient for the elders to use the vouchers; and the eligibility age for the EHV Scheme was lowered from 70 to 65 since 1 July 2017;
 - (2) the DH was aware that there was a keen demand for healthcare services by the aging population. In considering as to whether the eligibility age for the EHV Scheme was lowered to under 65, the use of the EHV's after the implementation of the enhancement measures and the long-term financial implications on the Government brought about by the future demand should be examined scrupulously;
 - (3) regarding the proposal on provision of subsidy for the elder people to undergo various general check-ups and examinations on the high-risk and fatal diseases, the DH had already provided health promotion and education on a life-course approach as well as the evidence-based healthcare services for the local target groups including infants and young children, primary and secondary students, women and elder people. Besides, a wide range of free-of-charge or subsidised healthcare services such as health screening and vaccination were provided for the general public;
 - (4) given that colorectal cancer was the most common cancer in Hong Kong, the DH launched the Colorectal Cancer Screening Pilot Programme in September 2016 to provide preventive screening and education on colorectal cancer for the eligible Hong Kong residents. As the subsidisation of the cancer patients undergoing treatments with the targeted therapy drugs fell within the purview of the Hospital Authority (HA), the DH was unable to provide the relevant information;
 - (5) in addition, a comprehensive primary health care programme was provided by the multi-disciplinary teams for the elderly at the 18 Elderly Health Centres under the DH, including health assessment, physical check-up, health education, individual counselling, referral and therapeutic services;
 - (6) the Electronic Health Record (eHR) Sharing System was an information infrastructure for information exchange and service collaboration among the healthcare providers in both the public and private healthcare sectors under the public-private partnership programmes (PPP programmes) launched by the Government. Members of the public who participated in the relevant PPP programmes should also register for the eHR Sharing System; and
 - (7) according to the information provided by the FHB, the relevant programme under Community Care Fund would be timely extended to cover the elderly who were the OALA recipients aged 65 or above.

80. Ms LAM, Lam Nixie thanked various departments for providing the relevant information. She opined that the measures on aged care and elderly services were very important to the future development of Hong Kong. Also, she believed that the provision of respective services for the elderly was conducive to promoting the economic development of Hong Kong in future. Hence, she hoped that the Government would review the provision of the respective services. Moreover, she thought that some elder people were physically fit with extensive knowledge and they were also the potential labour force for the job market. She also believed that it would be favourable for the development of Hong Kong if the Government allocated a small amount of funds timely for provision of assistance for the elder people in healthcare, employment and elderly care.

81. The Chairman stated that the Financial Secretary was conducting the public consultation of the 2018-19 Budget currently. He proposed that Members' views should be conveyed to the Financial Secretary. Besides, he thanked the representatives from the departments for attending the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat had conveyed Members' views to the Financial Secretary in writing on 26 February 2018.)

IX Item 8: Request the Government to Assist the Owners of Old Premises in Property Maintenance

(TWDC Paper No. 121/17-18)

82. The Chairman stated that Mr KOO Yeung-pong, the Hon CHAN Han-pan, Ben, the Vice Chairman, Mr KOT Siu-yuen, Ms LAM Yuen-pun, Phyllis and Mr LO Siu-kit submitted the paper. The representatives from the departments responsible for giving response were:

- (1) Mr POON Yui-chau, William, Assistant Secretary (Buildings)³ (AS(B)³), Development Bureau (DEVB);
- (2) Ms CHU Yuen-man, Lisa, Chief Building Surveyor/Mandatory Building Inspection 2, Buildings Department (BD);
- (3) Mr LAU Kwok-fu, Senior Divisional Officer (Building Improvement)² (Acting) (SDO(BI)² Atg.), Fire Services Department (FSD);
- (4) Mr YIM Ying-kit, Senior Station Officer (Building Improvement)², FSD;
- (5) Mr Patrick LAU, Senior Manager, Building Rehabilitation, Urban Renewal Authority (URA); and
- (6) Mr Eugene YUE, Senior Manager, Community Development, URA.

Besides, the written replies of the Security Bureau (SB) and Home Affairs Department were tabled at the meeting.

83. Mr KOO Yeung-pong introduced the paper.

84. Mr LO Siu-kit stated that only the buildings aged 50 years or above were eligible to join Operation Building Bright 2.0 (OBB 2.0). On the other hand, the buildings aged 30 years or above should be inspected accordingly under the Mandatory Building Inspection Scheme (MBIS); however, the current status of these buildings were mostly not satisfactory. Hence, he hoped that the building age limit of OBB 2.0 would be relaxed to facilitate the repair works for more buildings with a

view to minimising the potential danger. He pointed out that the improvement works on fire service facilities had been carried out in many buildings in Tsuen Wan. Even though the FSD had adopted a flexible approach to handle the situations individually, there were still some difficulties in installation of fire service water tanks in old buildings and the construction cost and future maintenance fees were high. Hence, he hoped that the FSD would make it less strict for the flat owners to carry out the works without too many difficulties with a view to enhancing the building safety. In addition, he learnt that the URA had made efforts to assist the flat owners in carrying out the building repair works, including the implementation of the “Smart Tender”, but he was of the view that the flat owners were annoyed by the tendering process. Hence, he hoped that the Government would establish a Building Repair Management Authority to coordinate the respective work and assist the flat owners in solving problems.

85. Ms LAM Yuen-pun, Phyllis appreciated the Government for implementation of OBB 2.0 to provide assistance for the “three-nil” buildings, but she felt pitiful that OBB 2.0 did not cover the buildings aged 30 to 50 years which were required to undergo mandatory inspections. In recent years, the problem of bid-rigging appeared from time to time, but the Government still had not provided any subsidies and implemented any monitoring or assistance measures for the buildings aged 30 to 50 years. She believed that bid-rigging would be very likely arising from the mandatory inspections of these buildings. Hence, she hoped that the building age limit of OBB 2.0 would be relaxed to cover these buildings. Besides, after the application period of Operation Building Bright expired, a bulk amount of building repair works were conducted at the same time, resulting in a sharp increase on the building repair prices. Hence, she hoped that the application period of OBB 2.0 would be extended and the building repair works would be conducted separately. Moreover, she agreed that a building repair management authority should be established to serve as a consultant and prevent the bid-rigging as well as providing assistance for the buildings in dealing with tendering, monitoring on building repair works and acceptance inspection work through the one-stop approach. Meanwhile, it averted the ultimate cancellation of building repair works due to the insincere manoeuvre of calling for prevention of bid-rigging by someone else. As such, the Government’s original intent of maintaining building safety was not preserved.

86. The Vice Chairman added that despite the URA and BD had requested the flat owners to carry out the building repair works according to the existing legislation and provided subsidies for the flat owners wherever practicable, these authorities did not undertake the leading role in operation and regulation of the market. Hence, he hoped that the Government would take up a more aggressive and important role in old building repair works and exercise regulatory control on the market. He welcomed the allocation of about \$2 billion to subsidise the flat owners of old composite buildings to undertake fire safety enhancement measures in compliance with the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (Chapter 572) as mentioned in the Policy Address. Also, it indicated in the written reply of the SB that the application mode and target of subsidisation were pending for confirmation at the moment. In this connection, he hoped that all the buildings and housing estates served with the Fire Safety Directions as well as other “three-nil” buildings would be covered by the subsidisation scheme because the building plans of most of these buildings and housing estates, which aged 30 years or above, were submitted before 1987. On top of that, the flat owners of

these old buildings shared a very high cost of fire service works. If these buildings were provided with subsidies, the overall fire service safety would be enhanced effectively. Besides, Members had all along been striving for the connection of the town mains with the lower storeys of the old buildings for an exemption of meeting the requirement of installation of the fire service water tanks. He learnt that the said connection works of town mains was applicable to the buildings of three or less storeys. Hence, he hoped that the FSD would actively study to carry out the said connection works of town mains for the buildings of four or more storeys, in order to minimise the nuisance brought to the buildings which were refrained by their physical environment in installation of the fire service water tanks. As the subsidisation scheme would be rolled out soon, he hoped that the FSD would suspend the prosecution against the flat owners who had not yet complied with the Fire Service Directions. As such, they could consider applying for the subsidies to carry out the improvement works.

87. Ms LAM, Lam Nixie supported the Members' suggestion. She pointed out that not to mention the aging building stock, the buildings completed in the 90's should also be under repair one after the other. She opined that on fostering the smooth progress of building repair works, the Government should provide further assistance for the flat owners to carry out such repair works so as to make up for the shortcomings in the lack of technical knowledge and coordination ability of the Owners' Corporations (OCs). As the building repair works was managed by several departments, she opined that there was a need to establish a building repair management authority for provision of one-stop service for flat owners, with a view to shortening the time for handling the building repair works and averting the disputes therefrom.

88. Mr LAM Faat-kang supported the Members' suggestions. He said that the repair works on external wall for Luk Yeung Sun Chuen in his constituency area was currently carried out under the supervision of the MTRCL. As the repair works involved various areas and scopes, it was difficult to require the OC concerned to take the lead in handling the repair works. Hence, he agreed that a Building Repair Management Authority should be established to provide assistance for the residents in coordinating the building repair works and preventing the bid-rigging. As such, it would put the residents' mind at ease. Besides, the cost of building repair works was increasing due to inflation. The flat owners might hold diverse views. Hence, he suggested that the Government should assist the flat owners in coordinating the building repair works.

89. AS(B)3 of the DEVB responded as follows:

- (1) the DEVB noted Members' concern and suggestions for OBB 2.0;
- (2) a risk-based approach was adopted for OBB 2.0 in which the buildings of relatively high risk, i.e. the residential and commercial buildings aged 50 years or above were handled through pooling resources. Besides, under OBB 2.0, assistance would be mainly provided for the buildings to undergo inspections and repair works as required by the MBIS, and subsidies would only be provided for the owner-occupiers of the eligible buildings;

- (3) the DEVB considered that resources should be pooled to handle the safety problems of some of the relatively old buildings. The DEVB would conduct a review when OBB 2.0 entered its first half of the implementation period, with a view to assisting the flat owners most in need;
- (4) as some of the flat owners had already started the repair works or engaged an inspector for complying with the requirements of MBIS before the commencement of OBB 2.0, the DEVB would carry out the measures on transitional arrangements when implementing OBB 2.0, with a view to including the buildings on the relevant conditions to apply for OBB 2.0;
- (5) the DEVB would phase in the invitation of applications for OBB 2.0 subject to the approval of funding and planned to roll out the first round of application of OBB 2.0 in mid-2018. The remaining rounds of applications would be rolled out gradually in due course, so that the repair costs and market stability would not be affected;
- (6) a number of dedicated departments were involved in building repair works, including the Independent Commission Against Corruption which was duty bound to deal with corrupt practices, Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) to deal with intimidating and ransoms, Competition Commission to deal with collusive and anti-competitive bid-rigging practices, and BD to monitor the professional standards etc. After conducting the preliminary review, the DEVB considered that the dedicated departments were well-experienced which were able to handle the matters in relation to building repair works effectively. The DEVB noted Members' views on the establishment of Building Repair Management Authority and would conduct reviews again after gaining more experiences;
- (7) the DEVB had also cooperated with different organisations, not merely the monitoring departments. For example, all flat owners of the buildings of OBB 2.0 should join the "Smart Tender" Building Rehabilitation Facilitation Services scheme ("Smart Tender") of the URA. Under the "Smart Tender", the URA would provide assistance in coordinating the repair works for the buildings as appropriate, including arranging for an independent professional consultant to tender professional knowledge and related cost estimations. To facilitate the flat owners of buildings to get more information about making assessment on the reasonableness of quotations in the tendering documents of the consultants, the URA was currently studying the feasibility on extending the electronic tendering platform for engagement of contractors under the "Smart Tender" to cover the engagement of consultant services; and
- (8) the URA planned to start to phase in the Building Rehabilitation Platform in mid-2018. The Building Rehabilitation Platform would provide the relevant information covering various building repair works, including a series of guidelines and codes of practice in relation to the coordination of building repair works, standard templates for tendering and engagement of contractors and consultants, reference materials of the costs of building rehabilitation works, and information about selection of contractors and consultants for the flat owners of buildings. It was hoped that the flat owners of buildings would be provided with assistance as appropriate.

(Note: Ms LAM, Lam Nixie left the meeting at 6:51 p.m.)

90. SDO(BI)2 Atg. of the FSD responded as follows:
- (1) regarding the implementation of the “Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme” (“FSIWSS”), the FSD had stipulated the eligibility for applying for the subsidies by the buildings which had not yet complied with the Fire Safety Directions issued by the FSD or BD on 11 October 2017, i.e. the day of promulgation of the Policy Address. The applicant should be the OC of the building. It was hoped that the OCs of buildings would take an active role in leading the owners to take part in the building maintenance and comply with the Fire Safety Directions;
 - (2) the FSD did not plan to provide subsidies for the “three-nil” buildings for the time being. Priority was given to the buildings with OCs at the present stage;
 - (3) currently, the FSD was dealing with tapping the water supply from the “improvised hose reel systems” for the buildings of three or less storeys. The FSD had earlier discussed with the Water Supply Department (WSD) as to whether the water supply could be tapped from such systems for the buildings of three or more storeys. According to the WSD, due to the restriction on water pressure, the water supply tapping from the ground to the buildings of four to six storeys was infeasible. If the water supply was forcibly tapped for these buildings, the water pipes would be damaged due to the prolonged pressure. This was unfavourable to the building maintenance and preserving a stable water supply system. The FSD was unable to tap the water supply from the ground to the buildings of six to eight storeys under the existing technical restrictions; however, the FSD would study other practicable options together with the departments concerned;
 - (4) after taking the supporting capability and physical environment of the relatively old buildings into account, the FSD had lowered the capacity requirement of the fire service water tank from 2 000 litres to 500 litres, i.e. these old buildings should be installed with a fire service water tank measured 1.5 metres x 1.5 metres approximately. The fire service water tank was installed at the staircase of some of these old buildings. In Tsuen Wan district, some of the buildings aged 40 to 50 years of four to six storeys had complied with the Fire Safety Direction of installation of fire service water tank; and
 - (5) none of the law enforcement authorities were empowered by the current legislation in exemption of prosecution for the offence. The FSD would handle the cases flexibly and pragmatically, including making approval for extending the period of compliance with the Fire Safety Directions according to the individual circumstances and the information submitted. However, the FSD would not make any arrangement for exemption of prosecution for the offence.
91. The Hon CHAN Han-pan, Ben welcomed OBB 2.0 and “FSIWSS”. He opined that these initiatives served the purpose of providing assistance for many buildings in dealing with the problems arising from the building repair works. As

there were many “three-nil” buildings in Hong Kong, he enquired whether the departments concerned would provide further assistance for these buildings to organise the residents’ organisations and start out the building repair works. In addition, he hoped that the URA would continue to study other strategies to further curb the bid-rigging practices, apart from implementing the “Smart Tender”.

92. Mr LO Siu-kit stated that the buildings aged 30 years or above were required to undergo mandatory building inspection by the Government. However, as the DEVB considered that these buildings were not as dangerous as the building aged 50 years or above, the proposed OBB 2.0 did not cover the buildings aged 30 years or above. He thought that it was unpalatable. He pointed out that the URA would probably conduct a review when OBB 2.0 entered its first half of the implementation period. By that time, the buildings which had already undergone the mandatory building inspections would be in a dilemma of making decision on commencement or suspension of building repair works due to the changes, if any, made after the review. He added that it recently made known to the buildings under the “Smart Tender” that three members of the OC of these buildings were required to open the tenders and it generally took six to eight hours to complete the process on a weekday. It was difficult for the single-block buildings with only a few households to comply with such a requirement. Hence, he hoped that the bureaux concerned would take the practical situations into account when stipulating the policies. The district councillors and executing departments should not be held accountable for taking up such responsibilities.

93. The Vice Chairman said he hoped that the departments concerned would cautiously consider lowering the building age limit of OBB 2.0 to 30 years or above. In addition, he enquired the FSD whether all the buildings with OCs which had received the Fire Safety Directions were eligible for applying for the “FSIWSS”.

94. SDO(BI)2 Atg. of the FSD responded as follows:

- (1) the FSD’s case officers were responsible for following up on all the cases of all buildings, including the “three-nil” buildings. The flat owners of the buildings might discuss the solutions to the respective problems with the FSD’s case officers directly;
- (2) the FSD would also inform the respective district offices of the latest news on the “three-nil” buildings in order to make an attempt to assist the flat owners of the buildings to form OCs; and
- (3) all the buildings with OCs which had not yet complied with the Fire Safety Directions issued by the FSD or BD on 11 October 2017, i.e. the day of promulgation of the Policy Address, were eligible for applying for the “FSIWSS”. Currently, the FSD and BD were discussing the priorities of application for the subsidies and would explain publicly the criteria of selection in due course.

95. The Chairman stated that the flat owners were responsible for complying with the Fire Safety Directions issued by the FSD. He hoped that the “FSIWSS” would be launched as soon as possible. He pointed out that it was difficult for the old buildings to meet some of the requirements under the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (Chapter 572). Also, some of the staircases were shared in use by different blocks of some of the old buildings. As such, the flat owners of other

blocks were dragged into the legal consequences if one of the blocks of these building failed to comply with the Fire Safety Directions. The affected owners felt unfair and confused. Besides, he opined that the departments followed their own policies on building repair works without any coordination spearheaded by a bureau. Hence, he suggested that the Government should consider the establishment of a Building Repair Management Authority to coordinate the respective work and assist the flat owners in undergoing the building repair works, with a view to improving the building safety. He also hoped that the Government would make use of part of the surplus to provide assistance for the occupants to replace the windows of their residence, with a view to bringing benefits for our society.

96. Mr KOO Yeung-pong said the FSD's case officers would make arrangements for meeting the flat owners to discuss the solutions to the Fire Safety Directions. Hence, he hoped that the BD would also make arrangements for meeting the flat owners to assist them to learn more about the problems of building repair works. He pointed out that the rationale of the legislation was to ensure that the owners cared about the safety of the residence. However, it was often difficult to trace the whereabouts of the flat owners of the buildings aged 50 years or above. Some of them had probably migrated to the foreign countries and entrusted the property companies to manage their properties. As a result, it was very difficult to make arrangements for repair works for these buildings. Hence, he hoped that the buildings aged 30 years or above would be able to apply for OBB 2.0 on a first-come-first-served basis. As such, the flat owners of these buildings would be free from the dilemma of making decision on commencement or suspension of building repair works after these buildings had undergone the mandatory building inspections already.

97. AS(B)3 of the DEVB responded as follows:

- (1) it was noted that Members had been dedicated to organising the OCs for the households of the buildings in the community. If the "three-nil" buildings or OCs of buildings were in the lack of coordination ability to arrange for inspections or repair works according to the MBIS, the BD would exercise its statutory power to carry out the relevant inspections and repair works in default, and the subsidies could be used by the eligible flat owners of OBB 2.0 to offset the amount which BD would charge for those works;
- (2) the DEVB noted Members' request for lowering the building age limit of OBB 2.0 and would examine the areas for improvement. A review would also be conducted when OBB 2.0 entered its first half of the implementation period, with a view to identifying the shortcomings and assisting different flat owners. The DEVB hoped that more experiences would be gained after the implementation of OBB 2.0 for exploration of the approach of providing assistance to the flat owners to undergo the building repair works;
- (3) the DEVB noted Members' suggestion of establishment of a Building Repair Management Authority. The DEVB would review on the suggestion which involved a number of areas and professions; and
- (4) apart from OBB 2.0, the Government and URA had already launched various schemes to assist the flat owners to undergo the building repair works. The DEVB believed that the flat owners in need would be able

to obtain subsidies through the respective schemes in order to comply with the requirements of the MBIS.

98. The Chairman thanked the representatives from the bureau and departments for attending the meeting and hoped that the bureau and departments concerned would consider Members' views.

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

X Item 9: Urge the Government to Immediately Activate a Study on Construction of Tuen Mun-Tsuen Wan-Shatin Monorail
(TWDC Paper No. 122/17-18)

100. The Acting Chairman stated that Mr NG Hin-lung, Norris submitted the paper. The written replies of the THB, TD, HyD and MTRCL were tabled at the meeting.

101. Mr NG Hin-lung, Norris hoped that the representatives from the TD would convey the relevant views to the departments concerned. He pointed out that following the population growth in the New Territories West, there was traffic congestion at North West Tsing Yi Interchange every morning. Besides, the problem of traffic congestion in Tsuen Wan district would be deteriorated after the in-take of the properties in Hung Shui Kiu and Tuen Mun East. Thus, he put forth a proposal on construction of a railway connecting Tuen Mun, Castle Peak Road - Tsuen Wan Section and Tai Wai Station of the Shatin to Central Link network in future. He also hoped that the existing railway coverage would be extended to connect the New Territories East and the New Territories West. He said that the area from Tuen Mun to Tsuen Wan was in a hilly terrain, and according to the consultants, the construction cost of a tunnel would be very high. Also, the reclamation works or obstruction of the current views was not preferred by the residents of the areas along the proposed railway. Given the fewer construction works and lower cost for a monorail, the problems raised in the Railway Development Strategy 2014 could be solved by the proposal on construction of a monorail by the hillside along Tuen Mun Road. Moreover, he proposed that the monorail should be constructed on a multi-system approach which did not only cover the entire population in the areas along the monorail, but also maintained the original speed of the speed trains. Furthermore, the residents supported his proposal on the monorail along the hillside, which was a light rail system with the least impact on the environment. Hence, he hoped that the TWDC would urge the Government to activate a study on the comprehensive railway development plan for Tsuen Wan district for early resolving the present and future traffic problems.

102. The Hon CHAN Han-pan, Ben said when the Government formulated the Railway Development Strategy 2014, the proposal on construction of Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun Railway was shelved because it was regarded as a heavy rail system; in fact, it was a medium rail system. He learnt that when studying the construction of the railway, the Government had considered the revenues of the railway generated from population growth in the coastal areas. Currently, the Government should consider how the problem of over-crowdedness of the train compartments of the West Rail Line could be eased. Also, on top of the future development of Hung Shui Kiu

and the areas of the westbound extension from the West Rail Line as well as the population growth in the New Territories West, the Government should construct an additional railway. He had put forth a proposal on the alignment of the railway to the Government, i.e. the railway should be developed along the coastal areas from Tuen Mun to Tsuen Wan East, Kwai Chung East, Kwai Chung North and Shatin and southbound to Lai King, Tsing Yi South and Kau Yi Chau, and a positive reply from the Government was received. He opined that the concept of construction of a monorail or light rail as proposed by the Member should not be ruled out. Hence, he supported the direction of the proposal concerned and opined that various sectors of our society should keep an open mind. Moreover, he learnt that each Railway Development Strategy lasted for 15 years. The Railway Development Strategy 2014 was not implemented till present despite the current railway development was included in Hong Kong 2030+. Hence, he hoped that the proposal on the railway development concerned would be included in the Railway Development Strategy 2014 for review and promotion.

103. Mr LI Hung-por opined that the new concept of construction of Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun Railway deserved the Government's attempt after taking consideration.

104. Mr TAM Hoi-pong opined that the current proposal was neither of a lower construction cost, nor nil damaging impact on the environment of Yuen Long. Hence, he had reservation over the construction of the railway connecting Tuen Mun and Tsuen Wan. In earlier years, he supported the railway development. However, given the dominance of railway service nowadays, he considered that it might be worth a second thought as to the increase on the share of the railway service. He opined that the problem should be tackled at source because the population growth in the areas along the railway was in line with the immigration policy.

105. Mr KOO Yeung-pong said he hoped that the railway conveyance would be developed in various forms to extend to cover Tsuen Wan, Tuen Mun and Shatin for provision of service in future. He opined that the relevant planning would take time. Also, he believed that it was currently opportune to put forth the proposal in order to change the entrenched thinking of the Government. In addition, currently, as there was not any means of transport for a direct access to the airport from the area around Tsing Lung Tau and Sham Tseng, he suggested that the Government should consider the construction of a cross-harbour railway connected with the airport in order to enhance the railway efficacy.

106. Mr NG Hin-lung, Norris stated that the technical suggestions were provided in his proposal, including but not limited to the construction of a monorail. He pointed out that the demand for railway development was overlooked because the inappropriate method of estimation was adopted in the Railway Development Strategy 2014 and there was no mentioning of construction of any railway in Hong Kong 2030+. Hence, he hoped that the Government would take this opportunity to resolve the relevant traffic problems. The infrastructures served as the foundation for all economic activities. The more severe the problem of traffic congestion in a city, the longer the commuting time for the general public. Hence, he had doubts about the liveability and operational sustainability of the city. He opined that the residents were liberal to the railway development and hoped that the Government would conduct the study early and solve the traffic problems.

107. The Acting Chairman stated that the majority of the Members hoped that the Government would reconsider activating a study on construction of Tuen Mun-Tsuen Wan-Shatin Monorail. As the relevant bureaux and departments did not assign any representatives to attend the meeting, he requested the Secretariat to record Members' views and convey these views to these bureaux and departments.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat had conveyed Members' views to the THB, TD, HyD and MTRCL in writing on 27 February 2018.)

XI Item 10: Matter about the Secondary School Students of Tsuen Wan Pursuing Studies in the Universities in the Mainland
(TWDC Paper No. 123/17-18)

108. The Acting Chairman stated that Mr LAM Faat-kang submitted the paper. The representatives from the EDB responsible for giving response were:

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

Besides, the written reply of the EDB was tabled at the meeting.

109. Mr LAM Faat-kang introduced the paper.

110. SSDO(TW)2 of the EDB responded as follows:

- (1) starting from the 2012/13 school year, the Ministry of Education implemented the Scheme for Admission of Hong Kong Students to Mainland Higher Education Institutions (Admission Scheme) in Hong Kong. Under the Admission Scheme, some Mainland higher education institutions were allowed to admit Hong Kong students based on their results in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination and exempt them from taking the Joint Entrance Examination for Mainland Institutions or any other additional examinations organised by individual Mainland institutions. The number of participating institutions increased from 63 in the 2012/13 school year to 102 in the 2018/19 school year. The participating institutions were located in 18 provinces and municipalities as well as one autonomous region in the Mainland;
- (2) the Ministry of Education and EDB jointly organised the Mainland Higher Education Expo every year in Hong Kong for teachers, students and parents to learn more about the details of the Admission Scheme. In 2017, the Mainland Higher Education Expo attracted over 10 000 attendance;
- (3) the EDB launched the Mainland University Study Subsidy Scheme in 2014 to subsidise the Hong Kong students who had financial needs. Eligible students who passed a means test would receive either a full-rate subsidy of HK\$15,000 or a half-rate subsidy of HK\$7,500 per year. Besides, starting from the 2017/18 school year, the non-means-tested subsidy was introduced by the EDB for the eligible students who would receive a flat rate subsidy of HK\$5,000 per year; and

- (4) since January 2017, the EDB had commissioned the China Education Exchange (HK) Center to set up the Online Platform for Internship and Employment Information for Hong Kong Students Studying in the Mainland Universities, with a view to providing consulting services on internship and employment for Hong Kong students who pursued studies in the higher education institutions in the Mainland and disseminating the job-related information.

111. Mr KOO Yeung-pong said that he had served as the Chairman of the Tsuen Wan District Parent Teacher Association Federation and learnt that the EDB had already implemented a series of initiatives on further studies. He pointed out that the Primary School Profiles, Secondary School Profiles and Special School Profiles were contained in the webpage of the Committee on Home-School Co-operation. Hence, he suggested that the information of the relevant universities should also be added to the webpage. Moreover, he noted that the Mainland Higher Education Expo in 2017 was jointly organised by the EDB and Ministry of Education. He suggested that the Federations of Parent-Teacher Associations of 18 districts should be invited to serve as the supporting organisations for the Mainland Higher Education Expo in 2018. It was believed that these Associations were helpful in providing the more comprehensive information and attracting more parents to take part in the Expo. He further pointed out that the wishes of parents also played an important part in students' pursuit of studies in the Mainland. Hence, he opined that the publicity work should not be carried out through schools only.

112. Mr TAM Hoi-pong objected to the proposal. He opined that the Government should not encourage Hong Kong students to pursue studies in the places of a comparatively lower level of academic freedom. It was more important for Hong Kong students to pursue studies in the universities in Hong Kong. He pointed out that the Government had currently put in place a series of initiatives on arranging Hong Kong students to pursue studies in the universities in the Mainland. Hence, he thought that it was not necessary to enhance these initiatives, but instead the number of local university places should be increased. He was of the view that the universities in Hong Kong still embraced academic freedom. He believed that Hong Kong students would opt to pursue studies in the universities in Hong Kong but not in those in the Mainland.

113. Ms LAM Yuen-pun, Phyllis supported the Member's proposal. She pointed out that there was an increase in the number of parents in Hong Kong who wished to send their children to the foreign countries for further studies. She opined that studying in foreign countries or in the Mainland could equivalently broaden the horizons of the young people in Hong Kong. She further pointed out that the universities in the Mainland with lower tuition fees were available for ordinary families if they chose. Moreover, she learnt that the students currently studying in the universities in the Mainland could not enjoy fare concessions for students when they took public transport after they returned to Hong Kong. She considered that it was unfair to them. In addition, she hoped that the academic or professional qualifications in the Mainland would be gradually recognised by the Government and the requirement for local students who pursued further studies in the Mainland would be relaxed.

114. Mr LI Hung-por supported the Member's proposal. He pointed out that parents generally worried about the career prospects and development of their children after they pursued studies in the Mainland. He opined that parents would definitely consider applying for admission to the universities in the Mainland for their children if the academic standards of these universities ranked among the top 100 universities in the world without being made known publicly.

115. CSDO(TW&KT) of the EDB stated that the EDB would convey Members' views to the departments concerned for follow-ups.

116. Mr LAM Faat-kang said that his proposal aimed to develop more channels of further studies for the secondary school students in Hong Kong. The resources allocated to the universities in the Mainland by our country were available for the use of Hong Kong students who were successfully enrolled. He pointed out that the students who had excellent levels in the HKDSE Examination were able to secure places in any universities. On the other hand, however, the Government should give the students attaining fair levels in the HKDSE Examination an opportunity to pursue studies in universities. Hence, he hoped that the Government would proactively strive for more resources from China, so that Hong Kong students would have more options in further studies.

117. The Acting Chairman requested the EDB to consider Members' views.

XII Item 11: Request to Set Up the Breastfeeding Area with Comprehensive Hardware Facilities at Tsuen Wan Station and Tsuen Wan West Station
(TWDC Paper No. 124/17-18)

118. The Acting Chairman stated that the Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael and Mr CHENG Chit-pun submitted the paper. The representative from the MTRCL responsible for giving response was Ms LAM Mong, Mona, Public Relational Manager – External Affairs.

(Note: Mr LAM Faat-kang left the meeting at 8:00 p.m.)

119. Mr CHENG Chit-pun introduced the paper.

120. The Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael said that currently, there were over 90 MTR stations in Hong Kong, of which 20 were interchange stations. The breastfeeding areas were firstly set up at the interchange stations by the MTRCL. He pointed out that the MTRCL should also set up the breastfeeding areas at the terminals in Tsuen Wan as soon as possible, i.e. Tsuen Wan Station and Tsuen Wan West Station. Also, he requested that immediately after the provision of the breastfeeding areas at the interchange stations, the breastfeeding areas should also be set up at various MTR stations for passengers' use according to the stop sequence of the MTR route. Besides, the breastfeeding areas at the interchange stations were equipped with basic facilities only without any drainage facilities. Only seven of these breastfeeding areas were equipped with drainage facilities. He opined that it should be possible to lay pipes for provision of drainage facilities for the breastfeeding areas in the staff resting areas.

121. The Acting Chairman requested the MTRCL to set up a breastfeeding area at Tai Wo Hau Station immediately after the provision of the breastfeeding areas at Tsuen Wan Station and Tsuen Wan West Station. He also enquired about the timetable for conversion of staff resting areas into breastfeeding areas; and whether the MTRCL had stipulated a plan for conversion of staff resting areas of the MTR stations which were not interchange stations.

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

- (1) the MTRCL was supportive to and aware of the needs of breastfeeding from our society. The breastfeeding area would be provided at the new MTR station of the newly planned railway line as a standard facility in future;
- (2) most of the existing MTR stations were constructed over 30 years ago. At that time, however, novel demand from our society nowadays could not have been foreseen and the space in the MTR stations was limited. The large-scale alternation works was required to carry out for provision of the breastfeeding area at the MTR stations. The MTRCL planned to provide the breastfeeding area at seven interchange stations including Lai King Station and endeavoured to complete the works before 2020;
- (3) it would take time to set up the breastfeeding areas. Meanwhile, the MTRCL had devised a practical proposal which could be implemented shortly, i.e. to re-demarcate the staff resting areas in 20 interchange stations for vacating some areas to set up the breastfeeding areas, including Mei Foo Station and Lai King Station. The conversion works was completed and the breastfeeding areas were open for passengers' use starting from 21 December 2017. The existing breastfeeding area was an independent space equipped with sliding door, door lock and sterilisation tools for the use of the passengers who nursed their babies. Also, the wash hand basin as well as hot and cold water dispenser were readily available in the staff resting areas;
- (4) the MTRCL disseminated the information about the breastfeeding areas to passengers through different channels, including the MTRCL's webpage, MTR Mobile and promotional posters. Also, these information were displayed at the lobbies and platforms of the MTR stations with breastfeeding areas;
- (5) the existing breastfeeding areas aimed to relieve the primary needs of passengers and provide mothers with a comfortable place for breastfeeding in private. Upon the completion of breastfeeding areas in future, these areas would be fitted with enhanced facilities for the care of the passengers who nursed their babies;
- (6) currently, passengers could seek assistance from the staff at any MTR station in the railway network for breastfeeding support. The staff at the MTR station were readily to arrange suitable rooms for passengers' use; and
- (7) the MTRCL understood Members' concerns on the facilities of Tsuen Wan Station, Tsuen Wan West Station and Tai Wo Hau Station. The MTRCL would continue to pay attention to the passengers' usage of the existing breastfeeding areas and consider the situations of other MTR stations.

123. The Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael enquired about the timetable for provision of drainage facilities for the breastfeeding areas at 20 interchange stations; whether the breastfeeding areas would be set up for the remaining MTR stations one after the other; and whether priority would be given to the provision of breastfeeding areas for Tsuen Wan Station, Tsuen Wan West Station and Tai Wo Hau Station.

(Note: The Hon CHAN Han-pan, Ben left the meeting at 8:10 p.m.)

124. Ms LAM Yuen-pun, Phyllis opined that there was adequate space in the staff resting area at Tsuen Wan West Station for setting up the breastfeeding area. Also, she suggested that the MTRCL should consider giving priority to the provision of breastfeeding area at Tsuen Wan West Station. Moreover, she suggested that the MTRCL should promote the information about the breastfeeding areas through various hospitals as well as maternal and child health centres.

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

- (1) the MTRCL would continue to pay attention to the usage of the breastfeeding areas and consider the situations of other MTR stations or consider as to whether there was a need to enhance the relevant facilities;
- (2) the MTRCL understood the aspirations from the district. She would convey Members' views to the MTRCL; and
- (3) the information of the breastfeeding areas was not only available at the MTR stations, but was also provided on the MTRCL's webpage and MTR Mobile. The MTRCL would study the enhancement of the mode of publicity.

126. The Acting Chairman stated that the provision of breastfeeding areas in all MTR stations could facilitate the users. He hoped that the MTRCL would consider the TWDC's views seriously and accord priority to the provision of breastfeeding areas at Tsuen Wan Station, Tsuen Wan West Station and Tai Wo Hau Station.

(Note: The Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael and Mr CHENG Chit-pun left the meeting at 8:14 p.m.)

127. The Chairman resumed the chair.

XIII Item 12: Request the Hong Kong SAR Government to Strive for the Authority of Approving for One-way Permit
(TWDC Paper No. 125/17-18)

128. The Chairman stated that Mr TAM Hoi-pong and Mr LI Hung-por submitted the paper. Besides, the written reply of the SB was tabled at the meeting.

129. Mr TAM Hoi-pong introduced the paper.

130. Mr LI Hung-por added that the population growth in Hong Kong resulted in the short supply of housing, soaring prices of properties and longer waiting time for allocation of public rental housing (PRH) flats. Currently, 150 One-way Permit holders came to Hong Kong from the Mainland every day. Accumulatively, there

were about 40 000 to 50 000 new arrivals from the Mainland every year, which was the total population of three constituency areas in Hong Kong. The growth in the new arrivals from the Mainland placed a heavy burden on the housing supply and exceeded the carrying capacity of Hong Kong. Hence, he hoped that the HKSAR Government would discuss with the Central People's Government about the restriction of the number of arrival of the Mainlander, with a view to relieving the pressure on healthcare, social welfare, residents and education in Hong Kong. Hence, he supported the Member's motion.

131. Ms LAM Yuen-pun, Phyllis said that some biased figures were found in the paper. She thought that the relevant figures should be comprehensively analysed from different perspectives. She pointed out that most of the new arrivals came to Hong Kong from the Mainland for family reunion. She also opined that the Hong Kong Government should address the issues arising therefrom. She said that after comparing the results of the Population Census in 2016 and 2006, a downward trend was found in both the birth rate in Hong Kong and the proportion of persons who came to Hong Kong from the Mainland, Macau and Taiwan. On the contrary, the proportion of persons who came to Hong Kong from other places was increased. Moreover, she pointed out that the Member might request the Government to improve the traffic issues in Siu Ho Wan, instead of merely raising objection to building houses in Siu Ho Wan. She hoped that the Member would grasp the idea of the causes of the housing problem comprehensively. In addition, she was of the view that the approval procedures of One-way Permit had all along been effective. Hence, she did not support making any changes.

132. Mr KOO Yeung-pong opined that the TWDC was suggested to make amendment to Article 22 of the Basic Law under the captioned matter. He said it was stipulated in Article 22 of the Basic Law that the approval of One-way Permit was undertaken by the Central People's Government and the approval procedures had all along been effective. He suggested that the Hong Kong Government should discuss with the Mainland about the number of One-way Permits under approval in light of the circumstances. He added that according to the Member, over-population in Hong Kong would cause problems; in other words, he indirectly discouraged childbearing among Hong Kong people. He opined that this was an illogical statement through which all responsibilities were shifted to the new arrivals. Moreover, the former Chief Secretary for Administration, who was the current-term Chief Executive, stated that the approval of One-way Permit originally aimed to allow the Mainlanders, including the Hong Kong residents' spouses and children in the Mainland, to come to Hong Kong for family reunion. Also, he pointed out that according to the Member, the resources in Hong Kong were considerably strained by the One-way Permit holders. However, there were many Fujian people, who came to Hong Kong from the Mainland for family reunion, in the constituency area of the Member who seconded the captioned matter. Hence, he felt puzzled for the Member who seconded the proposal. He further pointed out that the Fujian people who came to Hong Kong from the Mainland for family reunion had worked hard to make contributions to Hong Kong. He opined that the Members should not ignore their hard work. Besides, in 2013, the Democratic Party and a total of 21 LegCo Members lodged a judicial review to request that the arrivals who resided in Hong Kong for one year should be eligible to apply for the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme. Nowadays, however, they criticised the new arrivals from the

Mainland for straining the social resources. Hence, he considered that the motion was one-sided and raised objection to it.

133. Mr CHAN Sung-ip objected to the Member's motion. He pointed out that the policy concerned was derived from the agreement signed between the British Hong Kong Government and Chinese Government before 1997. Moreover, the Hong Kong Government had spared no efforts to identify land for building houses. However, there were persistent oppositions from the environmentalists who ignored the needs of people waiting for allocation of PRH flats.

134. Mr CHOW Ping-tim said that different people had expressed different views on the captioned matter. He learnt that there were about 440 000 One-way Permit holders who came to Hong Kong over the years, which approximately accounted for 5% of the Hong Kong population. As these new arrivals had brought an impact on the territory-wide affairs of Hong Kong, he opined that it was necessary to review their proportion in the Hong Kong population. Besides, he pointed out that currently, Hong Kong did not have the authority of approving for One-way Permit and could not set criteria for the calibre of the new arrivals. Hence, he thought that it would be better if Hong Kong gained the leading authority of approving for One-way Permit. Moreover, he was of the view that before further exploring the room to strive for or enhance the authority of approving for One-way Permit, it was essential to firstly conduct a survey scientifically to study the living condition, social strata and employment situation of the One-way Permit holders after they settled in Hong Kong. Furthermore, he pointed out that Hong Kong people wished that our country would become stronger on one hand, but they worried that Hong Kong would lose its position when our country emerged as a powerful nation on the other. He thought that it was self-contradictory.

135. Mr TAM Hoi-pong noted Members' concerns. He clarified that he did not fully object to the development project in Siu Ho Wan. He just hoped that the development would be scaled down. Also, he thought that only if the demand for housing and the frequency of identification of land were lessened could the parks and open spaces be preserved. Besides, he pointed out that the One-way Permit holders accounted for most of the migrant population in Hong Kong. He agreed on the Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals and the review on other relevant areas. Meanwhile, he also hoped that both China and Hong Kong would possess the authority of approving for One-way Permit. He said that he did not disapprove of the new arrivals in receiving the social welfare in Hong Kong. He just hoped that they would live happily together with Hong Kong people. Moreover, he opined that the new arrivals who came to Hong Kong in the past should be under the local care, but the quality of life of Hong Kong people declined when too many new arrivals came to Hong Kong. Hence, he hoped that the number of new arrivals would be reduced. He further pointed out that it was not stipulated in the Basic Law as to whether Hong Kong could take part in the formulation of population policy. He opined that a request for Hong Kong's participation should be made, with a view to facilitating Hong Kong to plan the future development. In addition, regarding a Member who interpreted his views on over-population in Hong Kong which caused problems in a way that a discouragement of childbearing among Hong Kong people was indirectly given, he thought that it was an overly prejudiced misquote of his views. He clarified his views that it was necessary to reduce the size of migrant population and childbearing should be encouraged among Hong Kong people.

136. Mr LI Hung-por said he hoped that Members would not move one another towards extreme standpoints. He pointed out it was stipulated in Article 22 of the Basic Law that “for entry into the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, people from other parts of China must apply for approval. Among them, the number of persons who enter the Region for the purpose of settlement shall be determined by the competent authorities of the Central People’s Government after consulting the government of the Region.” He opined that the relevant matters could be explored. Also, he did not mean that the Mainlanders should not come to Hong Kong or he discriminated against the new arrivals. Yet, he was of the view that the number of new arrivals who came to Hong Kong from the Mainland was to be determined only after the carrying capacity of Hong Kong was taken into consideration. Hence, he hoped that the HKSAR Government would convey Members’ views and the difficulties faced by Hong Kong in reality to the Central People’s Government. He also hoped that the Central People’s Government would consider the carrying capacity of Hong Kong.

137. The Chairman stated that Mr TAM Hoi-pong moved the following motion that “request the Hong Kong SAR Government to strive for the authority of approving for one-way permit and take back the leading authority of population policy, with a view to conducting a better planning for housing, healthcare, social welfare and transport”. Mr LI Hung-por seconded.

138. The Chairman reminded Members to submit the authorisation, if any, to the Secretary to read out. No Members submitted the authorisation.

139. Mr TAM Hoi-pong proposed to vote by open ballot. Members agreed to the proposal.

140. The Chairman invited Members to cast votes for the motion. The voting result was listed as follows:

For (3 votes in total)

Mr LI Hung-por, Mr CHOW Ping-tim and Mr TAM Hoi-pong

Against (7 votes in total)

The Vice Chairman, Mr MAN Yu-ming, Mr KOO Yeung-pong, Ms LAM Yuen-pun, Phyllis, Mr CHAN Chun-chung, Jones, Mr CHAN Sung-ip and Mr LO Siu-kit

Abstention (1 vote in total)

Mr NG Hin-lung, Norris

141. The Chairman announced that the motion was not endorsed.

XIV Item 13: Crime Brief for Tsuen Wan District – Comparison of Crime Statistics between November to December 2017 and November to December 2016

(TWDC Paper No. 126/17-18)

142. District Commander (Tsuen Wan) (DC(TW)) of the HKPF reported the situation of the crimes in Tsuen Wan district.

XV Item 14: Crime Brief for Ma Wan – November to December 2017
(TWDC Paper No. 127/17-18)

143. DC(TW) of the HKPF reported the situation of the crimes in Ma Wan.

144. Mr CHAN Sung-ip thanked the Police for deploying additional police officers to carry out more frequent patrols during holidays.

145. The Chairman thanked the Police for making considerable efforts to the winter precaution work. He wished Tsuen Wan peace and prosperity and everything was going well with everyone in his work. He also hoped that the Police would stay committed to combating crimes.

XVI Item 15: Recruitment of Contract Staff for the Tsuen Wan District Council
(TWDC Paper No. 128/17-18)

146. The Secretary introduced the paper.

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

148. Mr CHOW Ping-tim said that the contract staff engaged by the TWDC assisted the TWDC in co-ordinating various activities organised/co-organised by the TWDC and taking the minutes of the relevant meetings. He requested that the contract staff should record the discussions together with the names of speakers/Members when taking the minutes of meetings of the working groups.

149. Mr TAM Hoi-pong hoped that the staff concerned would record the discussions together with the names of speakers/Members when taking the minutes of meetings of the committees. In addition, he suggested that the mode of reply by e-mail for returning the reply slip for attending meeting or activity should be created. Also, he hoped that the contract staff would assist in handling the District Councillors' applications for honoraria, allowances and reimbursements of expenses.

150. The Secretary stated that the Secretariat would consider coping with the Members' requirements as far as possible.

151. Members unanimously endorsed to continue employing the contract staff for the TWDC with no more than 15% of the provision for the TWDC in the 2018/19 financial year.

XVII Item 16: Nomination of a Representative from the Tsuen Wan District Council to Serve as the Member of the Kowloon Regional Advisory Committee of the Hospital Authority
(TWDC Paper No. 129/17-18)

152. The Secretary introduced the paper.

153. Members unanimously endorsed the nomination of Ms LAM Yuen-pun, Phyllis to serve as the Member of the Kowloon Regional Advisory Committee of the HA.

154. Mr CHOW Ping-tim said that the Kowloon Regional Advisory Committee of the HA had specified female member to join in the past. He opined that it was discriminatory against gender.

155. The Chairman stated that the Member's views would be recorded.

XVIII Item 17: Information Papers

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

- (1) Report of District Facilities Management Committee (TWDC Paper No. 130/17-18);
- (2) Report of Culture, Recreation and Sports Committee (TWDC Paper No. 131/17-18);
- (3) Report of Traffic and Transport Committee (TWDC Paper No. 132/17-18);
- (4) Report of Community Building, Planning and Development Committee (TWDC Paper No. 133/17-18);
- (5) Report of Social Services and Community Information Committee (TWDC Paper No. 134/17-18);
- (6) Report of Coastal Affairs Committee (TWDC Paper No. 135/17-18);
- (7) Report of Environmental and Health Affairs Committee (TWDC Paper No. 136/17-18);
- (8) Report of District Management Committee (TWDC Paper No. 137/17-18);
- (9) Items Endorsed by Circulation by the Tsuen Wan District Council during the Period from 21 November 2017 to 22 January 2018 (TWDC Paper No. 138/17-18);
- (10) Dates of Meetings of Tsuen Wan District Council and its Committees in 2018/19 (TWDC Paper No. 139/17-18); and
- (11) Financial Statement of Tsuen Wan District Council Funds as at 17 January 2018 (TWDC Paper No. 140/17-18).

157. Assistant District Officer (Tsuen Wan) of the Tsuen Wan District Office (TWDO) stated that the District Management Committee had endorsed at its meeting that continued efforts would be made to combat shop front extensions and strengthen the anti-mosquito work through the District-led Actions Scheme in the current year. Besides, the TWDO would make use of the relevant resources to enhance the hygienic condition in Tsuen Wan and carry out the beautification work, with a view to improving the environment in the district continuously.

XIX Item 18: Any Other Business

158. The Chairman stated that a letter from the LWB about the 2018-19 Public Education Activities on Rehabilitation was received earlier. To encourage the organisation of the more large-scale publicity activities to promote the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at the district level, in addition to the proposed allocation of \$53,000 for each District Council (DC), the Sub-committee on Public Education on Rehabilitation under the LWB proposed an additional allocation of \$200,000 for a maximum of four DCs, i.e. each of these four

DCs would receive an additional allocation of not more than \$50,000 (i.e. a maximum allocation of \$103,000 in total) to organise the large-scale local publicity activities in promotion of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. He suggested that the matter should be referred to the Working Group on Age-friendly Community and Rehabilitation under the Social Services and Community Information Committee (SSCIC) for co-ordination and implementation of the relevant activities.

159. Mr CHOW Ping-tim suggested that the matter should be referred to the SSCIC for co-ordination and implementation of the relevant activities.

160. Mr LO Siu-kit made declaration of his membership of the Rehabilitation Advisory Committee.

161. The Chairman stated that due to the timeline constraint on funding application, it would fail to meet the deadline if the matter was referred to the SSCIC for co-ordination and implementation of the relevant activities and followed up by its Working Group on Age-friendly Community and Rehabilitation. Hence, he suggested that the matter should be directly referred to the Working Group on Age-friendly Community and Rehabilitation for co-ordination and implementation of the relevant activities.

162. Members unanimously agreed that the matter was referred to the Working Group on Age-friendly Community and Rehabilitation under the SSCIC for co-ordination and implementation of the relevant activities.

163. The Chairman stated that the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education invited all DCs to submit applications for civic education projects or recommend the local organisations to submit applications for civic education projects as appropriate through “CPCE’s Cooperation Scheme with District Councils 2018-19”, with a view to organising activities for promotion of civic education at the district level. The ceiling of total subsidises for each district was \$200,000. According to the arrangements made for the past few years, the Chairman proposed that this matter was to be referred to the Tsuen Wan District Civic Education Committee (TWDCEC) for co-ordination and implementation of the relevant activities.

164. Members unanimously agreed to the above proposal.

165. The Chairman said that the TWDCEC wished to report the summary report on the Xi’an Silk Road Exploratory Programme 2017 organised by the TWDCEC in 2016-17 to Members.

166. Mr CHAN Chun-chung, Jones, a Member of the TWDCEC, reported the details to Members.

167. The Chairman stated that after the TWDC agreed earlier to serve as a supporting organisation for the “Love n Thank Campaign” programme, another letter of application for the use of the TWDC logo on the publicity materials of the “Love n Thank Campaign” was received from the Yan Chai Hospital.

168. Members unanimously endorsed the application for the use of the TWDC logo from the Yan Chai Hospital.

169. The Chairman stated that after the TWDC agreed earlier to serve as a supporting organisation for the “2nd Hong Kong Community Youth Sports Festival”, another letter of application for the use of the TWDC logo on the publicity materials of the “2nd Hong Kong Community Youth Sports Festival” was received from the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups.

170. Members unanimously endorsed the application for the use of the TWDC logo from the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups.

171. The Chairman stated that the TWDC had endorsed at its meeting on 28 November 2017 the establishment of a Non-standing Working Group for discussion of the matters about the second duty visit. The Working Group held the 1st meeting on 5 January 2018 and discussed the relevant matters of the second duty visit plan. The Working Group also decided that the destination of the second duty visit was Singapore. In the interest of saving time to make various arrangements for the smooth implementation of the second duty visit, Members were informed that their support for the outline of the second duty visit plan would be sought by circulation of papers after the Working Group agreed on the outline.

172. The Chairman said the “Chinese New Year Celebration Lunch” in 2018 which was organised by the TWDO and TWDC would be held from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. on 2 March 2018 (the fifteenth day of the first month of the lunar calendar) at the Ballroom on the 5/F of Panda Hotel, Tsuen Wan. The TWDC was one of the organisers and he hoped that Members could arrive earlier to receive guests.

173. The Chairman reminded Members that the date of the next meeting was 27 March 2018 and the deadline for submission of paper was 12 March 2018.

174. As the Chinese New Year was around the corner, the Chairman wished everyone a prosperous new year and good health with many blessings and every success in the future endeavours.

XX Adjournment of Meeting

175. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat
February 2018