

(Translation)

Minutes of the 4th Meeting of Tsuen Wan District Council (1/16-17)

Date: 31 May 2016

Time: 2:15 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

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

Mr TAM Hoi-pong

In Attendance:

Miss YIP Kam-ching, Jenny, JP District Officer (Tsuen Wan), Tsuen Wan District Office

Mr CHONG Kong Sang, Patrick Assistant District Officer (Tsuen Wan), Tsuen Wan District Office

Mr CHAN Shiu-man, Simon Senior Executive Officer (District Management), 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 KWOK Ho-ye, Anthony District Commander (Tsuen Wan), Hong Kong Police Force

Ms LAU Chui-ying, Bo Police Community Relations Officer (Tsuen Wan), Hong Kong Police Force

Mr WONG Kwok-chun, Alex	District Social Welfare Officer (Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing), Social Welfare Department
Mr LO Kam-lun, Alan	District Lands Officer (District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing), Lands Department
Mr LAM Chi-fai	Administrative Assistant/Lands (District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing), Lands Department
Mr YUEN Hong-shing, Honson	Chief Transport Officer/NT South West, Transport Department
Mr WONG Hon-kit	Chief Manager/Management (Wong Tai Sin, Tsing Yi, Tsuen Wan and Islands), Housing Department
Ms KHATTAK Nasreen	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Tsuen Wan), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr LAM Lap-tak, Daniel	Chief Engineer/NTW 2 (New Territories West), Civil Engineering and Development Department
Ms CHEUNG Yuk-king, Dilys	Chief Leisure Manager (New Territories West), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr CHAN Ming-cheong, Horman	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 PUN Chung Chak, Michael	Executive Officer (District Council) ³ , Tsuen Wan District Office

For discussion of item 3:

Mr. CHEUNG Kin-chung, Matthew, GBS, JP	Secretary for Labour and Welfare, Labour and Welfare Bureau
Ms Jade LAI	Political Assistant to Secretary for Labour and Welfare, Labour and Welfare Bureau

For discussion of item 4:

Miss TSE Siu-wa, Janice, JP	Director of Home Affairs, Home Affairs Department
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For discussion of item 5:

Mrs Bernadette COOK	ICAC Regional Officer/New Territories West, Community Relations Department, Independent Commission Against Corruption
Ms Amy LAM	Senior Community Relations Officer/New Territories South West, Community Relations Department, Independent Commission Against Corruption

For discussion of item 6:

Dr LOH Lai-ting, Taron

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

For discussion of item 8:

Ms Ava Ho

Assistant Public Relations Manager — External Affairs,
MTR Corporation Limited

For discussion of item 9 and item 10:

Dr LAI King-kwong

Hospital Chief Executive, Yan Chai Hospital, Hospital
Authority

Dr LOH Lai-ting, Taron

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

I Opening Remarks and Introduction

The Chairman welcomed the Members and representatives from the government departments to the 4th meeting of Tsuen Wan District Council (TWDC) and introduced Mr CHONG Kong-sang, Patrick, who replaced Mr Winsor LEUNG Chun-hei to assume the post of Assistant District Officer (Tsuen Wan) (ADO(TW)). The Chairman also thanked Mr LEUNG for his contribution to the TWDC.

2. The Chairman particularly welcomed Mr CHEUNG Kin-chung, Matthew, the Secretary for Labour and Welfare (SLW) to this meeting for consultation of Members' views on agenda item 3 of Public Engagement Exercise on Retirement Protection. He also welcomed Miss TSE Siu-wa, Janice, the Director of Home Affairs (DHA), in particular, for her visit to the TWDC.

3. The Chairman reminded Members that according to sections 17(1) and 27 of the Tsuen Wan District Council Standing Orders (the Standing Orders), Member who wished to move a motion or ask any question at a meeting 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 26 July 2016 and the deadline for submission of paper was 11 July 2016.

(Note: Mr WONG Ka-wa joined the meeting at 2:17 p.m.)

II Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes of the 3rd Meeting held on 22.3.2016

4. The Chairman said that the Secretariat had received one amendment proposal prior to this meeting.

5. The Secretary stated that the proposal was about the amendment to paragraph 53 in the minutes of the 3rd meeting. It was proposed that “他認為規劃署應限制部分重建大廈的高度，而不會盡用最高總地積比率” (“he considered that height restriction on some of the reconstructed buildings should be imposed by the Planning Department and that the maximum plot ratio should not be fully utilised”) should be amended as “他認為規劃署應限制於發展時不能盡用百分百上蓋面積的

空間” (“he considered that restriction below with 100% utilisation of the space above the site coverage during the development should be imposed by the Planning Department.”)

6. The minutes of the 3rd meeting were confirmed with proposed amendment.

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

(A) Paragraphs 107-127 of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 March 2016: Request to Discuss the Land Use of Ma Kok Street Cooked Food Hawker Bazaar after its Land Resumption

7. The Chairman said that Members had discussed the above issue at the TWDC meeting held on 22 March 2016. The supplementary information submitted by the Planning Department on 19 May 2016 had been distributed to Members for perusal.

IV Item 3: Public Engagement Exercise on Retirement Protection (TWDC Paper No. 6/16-17)

8. The Chairman said that the Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB) was going to seek Members' views on retirement protection. The representatives from the government departments attending the meeting were Mr CHEUNG Kin-chung, Matthew, the SLW and Ms Jade LAI, the Political Assistant to Secretary for Labour and Welfare. The Chairman asked Members to speak once and up to 3 minutes each for this agenda item at the meeting because Mr CHEUNG would leave the meeting at 3:40 p.m. and there were many items on the agenda. Members might forward their views in writing for LWB's deliberation if they were not able to present their views fully at this meeting.

9. SLW introduced the content of the public consultation on retirement protection, including the background of the public consultation, Government's position, challenges of implementation of retirement protection, the current multi-pillar retirement protection system in Hong Kong and improvement measures for Hong Kong's retirement protection system.

(Note: Mr CHENG Chit-pun, Mr CHAN Yuen-sum, Sumly, Mr CHOW Ping-tim and the Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael joined the meeting at 2:25 p.m., 2:33 p.m., 2:50 p.m. and 2:55 p.m. respectively.)

10. The Hon CHAN Han-pan, Ben stated that many elderly had relayed to the Secretary for Labour and Welfare about their views on retirement protection. Under the leadership of the Secretary for Labour and Welfare, several programmes of the current-term Government, including the Old Age Living Allowance (OALA), \$2 Transport Fare Concession, Low-income Working Family Allowance, “Guangdong Scheme” and increase in the expenditure of the Health Care Vouchers (HCVs), were well received by the general public. Of the four pillars of the current retirement protection system as introduced by the Secretary for Labour and Welfare, it was regarded in the previous discussions that the second pillar was a problem because the Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) had let all members of the public down. Some people could not make contributions to the MPF, for example, the housewives failed to make contributions to the MPF because they did not have a job. He therefore

considered that it was necessary to have retirement protection and the Government should prepare for this. It was not easy to stipulate a retirement protection plan which could not only be sustainable but also achieve a breakeven and well received by the general public to address the aging population problem. Regarding the tripartite contributions, it was uncertain whether both employers and employees were required to make contributions to the MPF and whether the business sector was willing to pay more taxes. He thought that this was a thorny issue. He was of the view that after consolidating all the views from the public consultation on retirement protection, the Government should take a further step, including the implementation of "Fujian Scheme" by making reference to "Guangdong Scheme" for which he had strived from the Government in the past. There were many Fujian people in Hong Kong. They hoped that the Government would launch "Fujian Scheme" as soon as possible, so that they could stay in Fujian for the rest of their lives. Many elderly and he himself hoped that the age requirement for HCVs and Old Age Allowance would be lowered to 65 and asset tests were not required in order to lessen the pressure of the elderly and ease social tension. Then, the Government could have more time for discussion of retirement protection. As for the figures of retirement protection calculated by the Government, he opined that the proposal of "those with financial needs" was not desirable because asset tests were imposed to all. However, it was uncertain whether a plan for all was good enough. He hoped that consideration would be taken in a rational manner. He would give support if consensus was reached by our society or that was reached by the business sector, employees and employers.

11. Mr LAM Faat-kang thanked the SLW for his dedicated efforts for Hong Kong society but he worried about the problems mentioned in the consultation paper. He was of the view that the Government had worked hard for advocating the retirement protection and agreed with the Secretary for Labour and Welfare that the Government would bear a substantial financial implication in future. In order to solve the problem, all of us should stay positive when facing the forthcoming difficulties. In the long run, the government should create new sources of revenue. For example, consideration could be given to broadening the tax base or establishing a specific tax item for retirement protection of the elderly in future. Regarding the MPF, the merchants who gained profits might give away their turnover as a token of contribution to society and future commitment. Besides, he thought that "Guangdong Scheme" had all along been well received by the general public. According to the ratio in population, Fujian people comprised the vast majority of the population in Hong Kong. Many Fujian people would go back to Fujian after retirement. He declared that he came from Fujian too. He would like to lobby the Secretary for Labour and Welfare for such a benefit in the hope that the wish of Fujian people would come true.

12. Mr CHAN Yuen-sum, Sumly said that many years ago, the general public had strived for universal retirement protection through petitions and strikes. Although the HKSAR Government of this term issued the consultation document of retirement protection, the general public were not provided with a comprehensive protection. He thought that the document had divided the community and enquired about the reasons for putting forth the options of "those with financial needs" and "regardless of rich and poor". In the option of "regardless of rich and poor", it was

not sure that a rich man was referred to those who possessed assets of ten billion dollars or properties from ten thousand to several tens of thousand dollars. He considered that the Government was creating conflicts and divisions. Having joined the district council for more than 30 years, he had read a lot of documents and made a lot of suggestions, but he had never read such a fishy document. All the Secretaries of Departments and Directors of Bureaux only indicated that the Government should bear the financial implications and then hard sold the option of “those with financial needs” when they visited the districts. He was of the view that the Secretary for Labour and Welfare had not considered the details of the option of universal retirement protection proposed by Professor CHOW. Such a fake consultation was totally a failure. He learned that many young people did not mind making contribution for the elderly at the moment. On the other hand, various parties including the political parties, localities, religious personnels and organisations fighting for universal retirement protection in Tsuen Wan were making tremendous efforts in fighting for universal retirement protection. He could not understand why the Government had all along been chickening out, mentioning about its stringent financial situations and making wealth gap widened. The rich people did not need the retirement protection because they already had had sufficient money for their living. Yet, he doubted whether the elderly who possessed several tens of thousand dollars were the real well-off. Many elderly saved money because this could help living stable lives in future, but the Government ignored it and produced conflict between the old and young generations. Although this would be the final consultation, he hoped that the Government would implement the universal retirement protection scheme as soon as possible after consolidating the views so as to let the elderly to live with dignity.

13. Ms LAM Yuen-pun, Phyllis said that she supported the retirement protection but she thought that the principle of “regardless of rich and poor” was disputable. She hoped that the channel for collecting public’s views could be enhanced, that the protection for social groups in need could be improved exclusively, and that the groups being neglected could be spotted. All of these were the better options as compared to the use of public funds “regardless of rich and poor”. The Government should re-distribute the wealth for the society. If welfare was granted to the elderly regardless of rich and poor, such a principle of wealth redistribution would be violated. The increase in tax would increase the burden of the middle class. Healthcare was an essential part of social security. In recent years, the resources put into the healthcare by the Government were lessened gradually. But all citizens, in particular the elderly, were in pressing need of healthcare services. If the Government failed to meet the needs of healthcare services of the citizens and implemented the welfare policy blindly, it would be no good to the elderly. Some residents reflected that it was very important to attach great importance to and respect for the elderly. For example, only two priority seats were provided in each of the MTR train cabinet. As compared to those in KMB buses, the number of these priority seats was relatively small in ratio. Given that the demonstration of love from Hong Kong people, the sum of donation and number of people offering their seats were lessened, to certain extent, the measures would be effective in publicity and reminding the members of our society of the cultivation of love and care for the elderly gradually.

14. Mr MAN Yu-ming opined that the retirement protection should continuously be discussed because social stability and development mattered. Given that Hong Kong society progressed into the phase of aged population, the Government should give careful consideration to its finance and expenditure on social welfare. He thought that the option of “regardless of rich and poor” was an extreme equalitarianism. The social groups in need should be allocated with public funds and granted of welfare; otherwise the different classes of our society would be exposed to the unfair and unreasonable situations due to the increase in tax or other charges. He gave his views on the MPF and the pillar of healthcare. According to the MPF in news coverage in May, each contributor had suffered a loss of about \$5,000. It illustrated that on market operation, the MPF funds in general did not bring a stable income for the contributors. The SLW had mentioned several options earlier and one of them was the core fund. If steady fees and returns were to be generated by this core fund, the Government should further study and take forward the core fund. On financial estimates, many experts advised that China, Hong Kong and many places all over the world were heading for the L-shaped economy which indicated that there was no opportunity for making investments even though the capital was readily available. Under such circumstances, he supported the concept of the silver bond because the elderly generally would not be productive after retirement. They should consider how to use the money they had, if any. They could give more consideration to the silver bond as the road ahead after retirement was a long one. He thought that the L-shaped economy would last for some time. If the core fund and silver bond were effective, this would help building their confidence.

15. The Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael stated that he was a member of Commission of Poverty and declared that he had obtained the Senior Citizen Card last year. On this discussion topic, his political party had held a clear position and already submitted a report to the Government. He shared his views on the retirement protection from three perspectives. The first was the rationale. The second was who should foot the bill. The third was how to use the capital owned by oneself more properly. As for the rationale, Hong Kong was a capitalist society. Everyone should support themselves by making the greatest efforts in earning a living. In order to ensure that they could live a comfortable life during old age, they should save money as far as they were able to do so. Hence, everyone should at first live on their own savings after retirement. The Government should only intervene when only small amount of their savings was left for emergency use. According to the findings of a general survey conducted by the Census and Statistics Department one or two years ago, 80% of the respondents opined that they themselves, their children/grandchildren and their spouse should be most responsible for providing their financial protection after retirement/in old age and 20% of respondents considered that the Government should be the most responsible party. From this point of view, the core value of Hong Kong was to make a living on one’s own and the more the efforts, the more the gains. Hence, he thought that the Government should aid the citizens who had no one to depend on or should intervene when the family members of an individual were unable to provide assistance. He had mentioned at the meetings of the Commission of Poverty that the maximum amount of assets of \$80,000 proposed by the Government was a hypothesis only. The asset ceiling should be the median between the asset ceilings of the CSSA and OALA. If the ceiling in question was relatively close to that of the CSSA, it would be too meagre.

Also, the lump sum for emergency use should be a reasonable amount of money. The second was who should foot the bill. The population of Hong Kong was aging and the dependency ratio was on the rise. In future, the number of retirees would be more than that of those employed. However, what should be done when everyone did not want to have tax increase or make contributions.

16. Mr TAM Hoi-pong said that the consultation of the Secretary for Labour and Welfare gave people an impression that it was a sham. The two options were proposed in moderation that one of them was the option of “those with financial needs” which was extremely difficult for people to make successful application and the other one was the option of “regardless of rich and poor”. He consented that the closer the option to universal retirement protection the better. He also hoped that the Secretary for Labour and Welfare would re-examine the consultation to find out if any problems arose because there were too many objections. The issue of who should foot the bill and four options mentioned by the Secretary for Labour and Welfare targeted at the common people, i.e. to increase the salary tax and profits tax, etc. He hoped that the SLW would consider the option five proposed by him, i.e. the Government stopped the big white elephant projects. Hong Kong had spent a large sum of money on carrying out the big white elephant projects. The mandatory payment of money would be imposed on all in future. For example, the imposition of Airport Construction Fee from 1 August 2016 would subsidise the construction cost of over \$140 billion of the three runway system. He enquired the SLW if he would discuss with other departments as to the expenditure items paid by the Government and the reason for the Government’s expenditure on construction and mechanical aspects, instead of spending money on the Hong Kong people. He was of the view that people would become old and wanted to have a retirement protection, but the Government did not consider from this perspective. The Government spent \$70 billion on the large-scale infrastructure works and even established the Future Fund for the future infrastructure works each year. Hong Kong had sacrificed a lot for its infrastructure. Thus, he opined that the Government should consider the option five proposed by him so that the money for the infrastructure could be used on Hong Kong people. Besides, to meet the population increase and address the needs of retirement protection in future, he proposed option six that the Government should take back the power of approving the application of One-way Permit. This was a way to have a better understanding of the public’s needs. Otherwise, in facing the population on the rise without learning the age structure of the people holding the One-way Permit, he thought that the Government would fail to do well on the retirement protection plan. He also asked the SLW to consider widely and broadly that the retirement protection was not a single topic of discussion. He was a councillor of Ma Wan district and he hoped that the Secretary for Labour and Welfare would consider extending the \$2 transport fare concession to cover the residents’ coaches in Ma Wan.

17. Ms LAM, Lam Nixie said that she could not understand why a Member whose speech disagreed with the subject could still continue to speak. She thought that it was unfair to other Members who spoke at the meeting and hoped that this would be handled fairly. Hong Kong citizens had given lots of opinions on the universal retirement protection through different channels. Hong Kong was a sophisticated society. A long-term plan should be considered and implemented

because the overall long-term stability of Hong Kong society should be accorded the first priority. She hoped that the LWB would provide accurate figures as some elderly stated that they did not need any retirement protection, as mentioned by the Secretary for Labour and Welfare earlier. She also thought that a responsible government should make consideration broadly and objectively in order to seek a balance amongst various areas and parties. She pointed out that the surrounding countries and regions of Hong Kong had adopted different ways to handle the retirement protection. She opined that any decision on implementation of the universal retirement protection across-the-board should not be made hastily before the survey report was completed as that was not proper at all. After the end of consultation, the outcome of review should firstly be considered. Since Secretary Matthew CHEUNG had visited 18 districts in person to seek public views, she considered that it was a genuine consultation. The genuine consultation suddenly shifted to a fishy one because it did not fit in the topic in one's mind. That was a question of viewpoints and perspectives towards the consultation.

18. Mr KOO Yeung-pong said that his political party was very concerned about the development of the retirement protection. He worried about the disputes in the society over the options of retirement protection proposed by the Government. In April this year, his political party invited the Chief Secretary for Administration and Secretary for Labour and Welfare to attend the consultation session for how to put the retirement protection into practice. He pointed out that the MPF had been discussed since 1987, proceeded to legislation procedures in 1995 and implemented in 2000. Taking it as an example, it was believed that from now on, the retirement protection scheme would be proceeded to legislation procedures in 2024 and finally implemented in 2029. By that time, he would be 65 and probably be benefited from it. He thought that the options of retirement protection should be the long-term and sustainable schemes. The Government should take forward step by step; otherwise what was done could not be undone. The elderly appreciated the \$2 Transport Fare Concession. This scheme was successful because many elderly could go out for activities and fun. If the Government lowered the age requirement for elderly benefits to 65 and cancelled the asset tests, the elderly would appreciate the Government more than ever because they were entitled to the Old Age Allowance besides the \$2 Transport Fare Concession. He hoped that the Secretary for Labour and Welfare would consider the short-term and medium-term options for retirement protection in the petition letter that he had submitted just then.

19. Mr CHAN Chun-chung, Jones considered that the Government of this term had courage and various views for the options were expected from the society. Many people wished to get a large amount of resources through simple ways and not all people in the society would get the retirement protection without going through the asset tests. He opined that retirement protection should be available but not necessarily in the form of direct delivery of cash and some other ways could be considered. Some of his friends who were entitled to having retirement protection in the countries of higher degree of welfare also thought that such type of retirement protection could not be served as a long-term solution. He believed that the SLW even had learnt more about it. He thought that the proposal of all people freed from asset tests was not taken in a responsible manner and Hong Kong citizens would probably pay the price at last. He believed that the SLW would consider how to

handle it during the consultation. He pointed out that the Government had done a lot of work to help the elderly in recent years. He praised the \$2 Transport Fare Concession. Particularly, the scheme had included the green minibuses by which the elderly could live a more comfortable life with more choices. If the retirement protection developed along this approach, some other ways such as lowering the age requirement for HCVs to 65 could be adopted, instead of direct delivery of cash, to subsidise the elderly. Many elderly would seek medical consultation from the private doctors when they had a job, but they would change to visit the Government doctors when they retired. As a result, it would cause much pressure on the Government's healthcare system. He hoped that the HCVs would be provided for the elderly as early as possible so that the private doctors could help providing medical consultation service for the elderly. He also proposed the compulsory saving plan because he thought that it was relatively infeasible for asking the young people to save money for use in their old age.

20. Mr LI Hung-por appreciated the Secretary for Labour and Welfare. He had reservation for the universal retirement protection at first, but he changed some of his view after giving it a second thought carefully. Many people opined that the concept of universal retirement protection was very good. However, a few points should be taken into consideration when deciding whether the options were feasible. First, rich people did not need the retirement protection provided by the Government. He supported the scholar's option involving an idea of tripartite contribution that the companies gaining profits over \$10 million should pay a tax of 1.9%. Under such an assumption, rich people should pay tax of \$190,000 for earning a sum of every \$10 million. In this case, rich people would pay a lot of tax. The tax revenue could be included in the universal retirement protection fund. He thought that it was a fair system if the Government delivered about \$3,000 after the rich people had paid such a great amount of tax. Besides, one part of tripartite contribution was to transfer half of the MPF contributions from employees and employers to the universal retirement protection. In other words, the amount transferred from the people earning a higher salary to the fund in ratio was relatively higher. However, he thought that it was an unfair system if people earning a higher salary were unable to collect any sum of money when they retired. Second, it was also very unfair to the young people who could only collect their contributions when they were 60. Yet, it was desirable if the parents of the young people could collect the contributions to relieve the burden of the young people after the young people had contributed for a number of years.

21. Mr NG Hing-lung, Norris stated that first, a great help should be offered for the elderly in need; second, the fairness in the society should be maintained; third, the way to address the problem of failing to make ends meet should be clearly drawn up. It was agreed that the elderly in need should be offered help and the focus of discussion of the society was whether the asset tests caused labelling effect. The complicated system of asset tests would probably make the elderly in need resist making applications for the protection. He thought that the details of administration procedures involved in the application for the protection should not be neglected. He suggested that the Government should provide service timely in order to enhance the rate of application from the elderly. For example, a letter indicating the method of application should be posted to the elderly who had reached 65; a counter providing supporting services for the elderly should be set up in 18 district offices to

render active assistance and handle the applications for the elderly; and home visits and assistance were delivered by assigning special teams. As for the problem of labelling in people's mind, public education should be enhanced in order to prevent prejudice. He opined that setting up a system of asset tests could address the problem directly because all the elderly would be labelled by the society by that time, resulting in an even more serious conflict between the old and young generations. To maintain the fairness in our society, the definition of asset ceiling would be directly affected by factors such as setting the asset ceilings for the elderly to differentiate the elderly in need as well as the way of interpretation of "lifeline reserve" which was the final emergency fund for the elderly. It was rational and encouraging for the elderly to prepare for their funeral or healthcare matters. He proposed the issue of the longevity bond exclusively for the elderly and the final emergency fund would be kept by the Government. When the elderly used the specialised services such as healthcare and funeral services, the Government bought the longevity bond from the elderly so that the elderly could make payment to the service providers. In addition, the longevity bond should not be redeemed and cashed. After confirming the purpose of the final emergency fund, the longevity bond should not be included in the asset ceiling of retirement protection. This would not only encourage the elderly to save money and help the Government to do financing, but also maintain the principle of fairness. The Government should plan cautiously and prevent the abuse when it distributed assets for the public. At last, the Government should draw up the way to address the problem of failing to make ends meet before implementing the plan. He noted that the problem of failing to make ends meet would occur in some of the options at the end of the day. Although the financial situation was robust at the moment, it could be exhaustible over time. He did not agree that the problem occurred in ten years' time should be addressed in ten years' time. Hence, he opined that the Government should consider the sustainability of the policy and think about the ways to address the expected problems before implementing the policy; otherwise it would lose people's confidence in it.

22. SLW responded as follows:

- (1) he thanked Members for giving solid opinions and recognition of his work. He would continue to make efforts on his work;
- (2) it was seen that the retirement protection was disputable because Members gave various views on it. The LWB was eager to issue the documents for discussion, hoping that careful consideration would be given to and more views would be collected for retirement protection;
- (3) the two options were not the final options. Those options proposed by the Government were served to stimulate discussions among the general public. The LWB had received a lot of views in writing. The analysis on public's views would be conducted after the expiry of the consultation period;
- (4) regarding the "Fujian Scheme", given that there was a geographical and cultural linkage between Guangdong Province and Hong Kong and that the exchanges between two places became more convenient, the LWB implemented the "Guangdong Scheme" in the trial run. After summarising the experiences from the "Guangdong Scheme", the LWB would consider whether the coverage of the "Guangdong Scheme" would be extended;

- (5) regarding the recommendation of lowering the age requirement for application of Old Age Allowance and HCV to 65, the LWB would examine the recommendation and analyse the views in few months' time, as well as carefully considering the way for determining the direction;
- (6) the Government neither meant to make our society polarised nor intended to stir up inter-generation conflict when carrying out this consultation. Putting the option of "regardless of rich and poor" into practice might not be accountable enough because the Government would probably be unable to pay for the huge expenditure on healthcare in future. Therefore, the wealth should be distributed cautiously and fairly without prejudice on any particular areas. Although different people would have different approaches and purposes on the options of retirement protection, the sole aim was to help the elderly in need. Hence, the Government carried out the consultation on retirement protection for discussions. He hoped that a wide spectrum of areas could be addressed by the retirement protection scheme in future;
- (7) some Members enquired whether certain services could be enhanced and more support could be given. He did not mean to hard sell the options proposed by the Government but hoped that the consultation documents would serve to stimulate discussions for the general public. He would consider the direction which was generally agreed by the general public as well;
- (8) he stated that the LWB would explain how the resources could be used effectively during the process of study on the matter. As for the big white elephant projects mentioned by a Member, he learnt the same views from many people in the consultation sessions. The reason for such misunderstanding was probably due to a series of cost overrun incidents recently. In fact, the Government's projects were proceeded purposefully and did not aim at spending money. The difference between the works cost and recurrent expenditure was that the works cost was an one-off expenditure. If this sum of expenditure was used in the universal retirement protection scheme "regardless of rich and poor", the amount of expenditure on the scheme would become enormous following the aging population;
- (9) infrastructure was a long-term investment. Economic efficiency would probably be brought upon the completion of the works. Assuming that the Hong Kong Airport in Chak Lap Kok was not built and Kai Tak Airport was still in use, the Hong Kong Airport would never be the hub of global transportation and the biggest airport for air cargo over the world. It would be difficult to attract more visitors to Hong Kong and expand the merchandise trade. In addition, Hong Kong was again ranked the world's most competitive economy and surpassed the United States of America and Singapore, according to the International Institute for Management's Development World Competitiveness Yearbook 2016. Besides, as Hong Kong still lagged behind on front of infrastructure and construction, the infrastructure should be taken forward for the long-term development of Hong Kong;

- (10) the elderly were Hong Kong's assets. They had been dedicated to this place when they were young. The Government would help them as far as possible. The Government took this consultation seriously. He visited the 18 district councils in person to carry out the consultation, showing that the Government treated the views seriously without digging into the public relation work only. He hoped that substantive recommendations would be sought after the consultation so as to stipulate the policy concerned;
- (11) he agreed to help the elderly in full strength. In the past few years, the LWB had all along been putting resources to improve the lives of the elderly. Through this large-scale consultation platform, the LWB would consider how to work for the elderly services in full so that the elderly could live a prosperous aging life;
- (12) Tsuen Wan was an "Age-friendly Community" accredited by the World Health Organization and the most successful satellite town in Hong Kong during the early period. He thought that Tsuen Wan was an exemplary district; and
- (13) due to time limit, he was unable to discuss further with Members. Members could convey their views, if any, to the LWB via e-mail on or before 21 June 2016.

23. The Chairman thanked the SLW for attending the meeting.

V Item 4: Visit of Director of Home Affairs to Tsuen Wan District Council

24. The Chairman said that Miss TSE Siu-wa, Janice, DHA visited the TWDC and introduced the work of the Home Affairs Department (HAD) to Members as well as collecting Members' views on home affairs.

25. DHA introduced the key district administration work advocated by the Government during this DC term, including the District Signature Project Scheme, promotion of arts and cultural activities in the districts, as well as strengthening the support of district minor works and youth development. She learnt that the Tsuen Wan District Management Committee would accord priority to handling the two local problems of "shop front extensions" and "anti-mosquito" through the "District-led Actions Scheme". The HAD would enhance the publicity to tie in with the implementation of fixed penalty of shop front extensions. She also briefed the work on building management, including the follow-ups taken by departments upon the endorsement of the Property Management Services Bill and the review on the Building Management Ordinance (Chapter 344) (Ordinance). Besides, she also briefed the HAD's work on district minor works and management of district facilities.

26. Ms LAM Yuen-pun, Phyllis said that she had submitted a petition letter to DHA just then. Since the end of last year, 5% of the owners of the Allway Gardens requested the Owners' Corporation to convene a general meeting to reverse the building maintenance works, dissolve the Owners' Corporation and re-elect the members of the Owners' Corporation. Yet, the incident had not resolved till present. Due to the disputes over the Owners' Corporation of the Allway Gardens, the cleansing company of the Allway Gardens only provided limited services and the provision of maintenance services of the lifts would be suspended starting from the

following month. The hygiene problems of Allway Gardens were getting worse, to name a few, there were heaps of debris and mud, rats and cockroaches, and mosquitoes and midges. Subsequently, the tenants refused to pay rents and the property prices of the Allway Gardens dropped. Although the residents of the Allway Gardens had a high expectation on the District Office (DO) on handling this matter, it was considered that the DO could hardly offer any assistance as restricted by the current legislation. She was of the view that the owners generally did not know much about the Ordinance. For example, it was stipulated in the Ordinance that the general meeting convened due to the filling of more than 50 % of the vacancies in the management committee of the owners' corporation should discuss the agenda item of filling vacancies and should not discuss any other matters. However, a number of members of the owners' corporation of the Allway Gardens and staff of the DO were not clear about the Ordinance, so they were unable to take precautions and failed to remind the minority owners of revising the agenda items of the general meeting of the corporation in advance. She pointed out that there were loopholes in the Ordinance. For example, in case of 5% of the owners requested for convening a general meeting of the owners' corporation, problems such as legal disputes would come up at the general meeting of the owners' corporation because the chairman of the owners' corporation was not entitled to revise the contents of the agenda items or refuse to convene the general meeting of the owners' corporation, although the owners' corporation had learnt that the agenda items, which were not drafted according to the legislation, were found contradictory in the contents or violating the legislation. Moreover, how the owner's corporation was dissolved without entrusting any administrator was not mentioned in the laws and regulations of dissolving owners' corporation. The Allway Gardens had the disputes alike but the residents could only wait for the listing of hearing by the Lands Tribunal. During the interim, payment for the daily expenses of the Allway Gardens was withheld because the bank account of the owners' corporation of the Allway Gardens was frozen. The daily lives and rights of the residents of more than 3 000 households, who were the victims of such an undesirable outcome, were used as the bargaining chips for odds and disputes. Some owners also reflected that it was a nuisance to the residents because the general meetings of the owners' corporation were to be convened as and when required by 5% of the owners. She hoped that DHA could plug the loopholes and strengthen the support for the owners' corporation.

27. Mr LAM Faat-kang said that as the "Chief Executive of District", the DO could take a leading role in district affairs. He praised the Tsuen Wan District Office (TWDO) for its work on "Redevelopment of the Sai Lau Kok Garden" under Tsuen Wan District Signature Project Scheme. He added that building management was an important matter to which the Government had also attached great importance by devising various policies. However, the Government always failed to perform essential function at crucial time. He was also the chairman of an owners' committee and agreed that there were problems in the Ordinance as mentioned by a Member. In addition, he opined that serious attention should be given and a general meeting of owners' corporation should be convened if 5% of the owners brought up the topics and concerns whenever problems arose. However, a second thought was worth over the situation when only 5% of the owners agreed to reverse or refused to adopt the options proposed by the owners' committees or owners' corporation, resulting in suspension of operation of the owners' corporation. He concerned about

whether it was proper to confer the right of vetting to the owners' corporation. The DO was required to play an important role at crucial times. The problem of the Allway Gardens had given an implication to the Government. He worried that the problem of the Allway Gardens would arise in other residential estates again.

28. Ms LAM, Lam Nixie stated that the TWDC had discussed the problem of midges for many times. Many places in Tsuen Wan were at the woodsy hillside. She had cooperated with several Members to address the problem of midges. She opined that the tools currently used by the departments might not help control the midges. Instead, she suggested applying the midge stickers created by the Members of the TWDC and Kwai Tsing District Council as reported in the press earlier. A study showed that those midge stickers could catch more than 200 midges within one week. They were far more effective than the natural enemy of midges – frogs. She strongly advised the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) to purchase the midge stickers under the “District-led Actions Scheme” to handle the problem of midges. She added that her constituency was full of private buildings and she expressed concern over the Ordinance. She learnt that the Government had carried out consultation for the review on the Ordinance. Thus, she was in attendance for the briefing of the Secretary of Home Affairs at the meeting of the Legislative Council on 17 May 2015. The key points of the briefing included that the maximum number of proxy instruments a person could hold should not exceed 5% of the owners and that the quorum of the general meeting of the owners' corporation for the passage of resolutions on “large-scale maintenance projects” was raised to 20%. Although the DO was not conferred with powers under current legislation, her political party had given views on the review of the Ordinance for many times since last year. It was hoped that the DO would proactively provide the technical support, including the maintenance, price quotation, procedure of cheque issuance and staff training. Amongst those, disputes usually arose over the cheque issuance because it involved trust and money. She hoped that the DHA would consider that the cheque issuance would be processed by the DO in a fair and just manner.

29. Mr LO Siu-kit commended the TWDO, District Officer (Tsuen Wan) (DO(TW)), ADO(TW) and Architectural Services Department for their concerted and wholehearted efforts in taking forward the “Redevelopment of the Sai Lau Kok Garden” under Tsuen Wan District Signature Project Scheme. He thought that the HAD and TWDO were sincere in handling and soliciting views on building management as well as launching the “Building Management Professional Advisory Service Scheme” to assist the “3-nil” buildings in need. Last year, the HAD organised the “Building Management Courses” for district councillors and their assistants. A lawyer was invited to explain the ordinances concerned and staff were arranged to follow up on the cases after the courses. The participants did learn a lot from the courses. He hoped that the HAD would organise the courses more often. He pointed out that his constituency was located in Tsuen Wan town centre and had many single blocks. He considered that there was a serious problem of building management in the district. It was hoped that the HAD would organise group discussions in the district as well as arranging lawyers to explain the relevant ordinances and discuss with the district councillors and their assistants. It was expected that more substantive legal advice could be sought and more assistance could be given to district councillors. He added that as the fixed penalty of

\$1,500 for shop front extensions would be implemented on 24 September 2016, the departments concerned were promoting the message of implementation of above fixed penalty to the shops under the “District-led Actions Scheme”. He believed that problems would occur when the fixed penalty for shop extensions was implemented in September. It was hoped that resources could be increased for carrying out more publicity work starting from early August.

30. DHA responded as follows:

- (1) On building management, the HAD and DOs were dedicated to providing support services to the flat owners and owners’ corporations. On building maintenance, the HAD and DOs had actively joined hands with other relevant departments and organisations in recent years to enhance the support to flat owners and carry out a wide range of publicity and education work. After drawing on the past experiences, the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) adopted different ways to assist the flat owners to conduct the building maintenance works. Recently, the URA had implemented the “Smart Tender” building rehabilitation facilitating services (pilot scheme) so as to provide technical and professional support for the flat owners and combat bid-rigging;
- (2) the members of the public should get involved in building management, even though they were not familiar with the relevant laws and regulations. If they were encouraged to take part in building management work, they could learn more about the building management through discussions. This facilitated the building management organisations to gain trust and recognition from them and avoid many unnecessary misunderstanding and problems. Because of the extensive media reports on the large number of complaints of suspected bid-rigging recently, many flat owners had become more aware of the building maintenance works;
- (3) it was not easy to request the flat owners to take part in the affairs of the owners’ corporations. If the quorum of the general meeting of the owners’ corporation was increased but there were not many owners joining the general meeting of the owners’ corporation, it would be difficult for the owners’ corporation to endorse the items as required. It would be unfavourable for the building management work;
- (4) some Members and localities suggested that the criminal liability should be set out. She worried that this would affect flat owners’ intention of taking up the duties of the owners’ corporations and so the building management would be affected. She opined that the flat owners would understand that they needed to take part in building management through organising more publicity and educational activities. It was because without the flat owners’ participation, it was impossible for other departments, which had tried their best to provide assistance, to make relevant decisions on building management for the flat owners;
- (5) she noted Members’ views on more intervention from the DOs in dealing with the disputes of the owners’ corporations and conferring more powers to the Government by making amendments to the legislation. As private buildings are private properties and flat

owners had the right to make final decisions, it was improper for the Government to stipulate the law that the Government should make decision or verdict for the disputes among the flat owners of a building. Under the current legal system, only the Lands Tribunal, District Courts and High Court had the jurisdiction. There would be a big dispute over the amendment to the law to confer the vetting power to government departments;

- (6) she understood that people's livelihood would be affected by building management and the flat owners were responsible for managing the private buildings. The Government had all along taken the role of advocator to assist the flat owners to execute their responsibilities on building management with multi-pronged measures. For example, the free mediation and legal advice services were provided for the owners' corporations whenever disputes aroused. On handling the building management issues in the district, DO(TW) had time and again arranged mediation as well as formal and informal meetings for the flat owners concerned. She learnt that some cases were on the listing of hearings of the Lands Tribunal. She hoped that the flat owners were encouraged to take part in the building management more often because the private building was the private property possessed by the flat owners. The quality of building management would affect residents' daily life and property prices;
- (7) she pointed out that some of the provisions in the Ordinance should be amended. However, during the discussion at the last meeting of the Panel on Home Affairs of the Legislative Council, the HAD found that it was not easy to reach a consensus on the direction of amendment to the Ordinance. For example, regarding the definition of major maintenance, if the scale of the maintenance was rigidly set, it would be difficult for the owners' corporation to process the building maintenance works when the threshold for passage of the building maintenance was high every time. Taking Tsuen Wan district as an example, the buildings were categorised into the "3-nil" old single blocks and large-scale housing estates with over several thousand of households. The flat owners of these private buildings would address different kinds of maintenance problems, so the HAD needed to consider carefully the draft of the legislation and the definition of maintenance;
- (8) she stated that she would collect views and the HAD would follow up on building management and consider the ways to enhance its service. She noted that the building management courses organised by the HAD were popular in districts. The HAD would organise more similar courses as far as possible, so that the management committees and owners' corporations could learn and understand more about the building management. She pointed out that apart from the enhanced training on building management, a wide range of publicity and education was also important for the flat owners to understand the power conferred and the duties appointed under the Ordinance;
- (9) during the interim of a total of six months between the endorsement of the legislation and formal implementation of the fixed penalty system

of shop front extensions, the publicity and public education would be carried out for the shops and relevant stakeholders to get prepared. As regards the implementation of the penalty, the Government would explain to the shops and localities in detail and the FEHD and Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) would closely liaise on the law enforcement in a cautious manner. The HAD would also continue to make coordination for the policy against shop front extensions. It was anticipated that the problem of shop front extensions would be efficiently and effectively handled after the legislation came into effect while other problems would not occur during the implementation; and

- (10) on anti-mosquito, the FEHD and Leisure and Cultural Services Department would join together to carry out the anti-mosquito and anti-midge work in different locations under the “District-led Actions Scheme”. The professionals concerned would study whether the departments should use the new tools.

31. Mr LI Hung-por said that he agreed to take meticulous care when the Ordinance was amended. In addition, as members of the public always needed to wait for several weeks after making appointments at DO for legal advice service, he hoped that the service would be enhanced for them to get legal advice on building management as soon as possible. Although the disputes over building management could be resolved by the Lands Tribunal, the residents were normally in a panic and helpless state because they might spend tens of thousands to ten thousand dollars to employ a lawyer to act on behalf of them. In this connection, he enquired whether a judiciary institution, like Small Claims Tribunal, would be set up under the Lands Tribunal to handle the case with simpler facts.

32. Mr KOO Yeung-pong indicated that it was not easy to establish an owners’ corporation for buildings, especially the single blocks. Some large-scale housing estates relayed to him that the annual general meeting of the owners’ corporation would be held after searching land records. In this way, each household should pay around \$10 for searching land records every year. For example, Clague Garden Estate of more than 900 households should pay more than \$9,000 for searching land records, which were calculated at the rate of \$10 per household. It was quite expensive. The fees for searching land records would be settled by the income generated from management fees. It could be seen that the larger the housing estates, the greater the impact they were exposed to. As the Government encouraged the setting up of owners’ corporation for private buildings, he enquired whether the Government would waive the fees for searching land records for once or twice every year so as to reduce the burden of the owners’ corporation.

33. DHA responded as follows:

- (1) the HAD understood that the flat owners would come across different legal issues when handling the routine building management work. In order to assist the flat owners and relevant organisations, the HAD joined hands with the Law Society of Hong Kong to provide the “Free Legal Advice Service on Building Management” for the flat owners to get the legal advice on building management as soon as possible. On the other hand, the HAD would continue to organise more training

- courses for the owners' corporations so as to enhance the flat owners' ability of handling the problem of building management;
- (2) the fees for searching land records was \$10 per household. The waiver of the fees for searching land records was not stipulated under the current legislation;
 - (3) there would be relatively great changes if another judiciary institution was set up under the Lands Tribunal because this involved the judiciary framework and administrative arrangements could not be made; and
 - (4) according to the Ordinance, the Lands Tribunal had the jurisdiction on building management. Under the observation, however, the flat owners were quite unwilling to lodge applications for the disputes over the building management to the Lands Tribunal for adjudication. In order to assist the flat owners to handle the disputes, the District Officers of all districts and their frontline staff would help mediating the disputes and enhance the communication of both parties. If both parties agreed, referral to the professional mediator for a formal mediation would be made. Mediation was not aimed at judging the parties on getting things right or wrong. It helped the two parties to seek a solution to the problem during the process of mediation. She believed that the mediation service could help addressing the problem if it was well used.

34. Mr WONG Ka-wa stated that he had closely cooperated with TWDO and the residents in Lei Muk Shue Estate applauded for a number of the completed district facilities. He pointed out that some other districts had a plan for redevelopment of the old community centres in the districts. At present, the facilities of Princess Alexandra Community Centre became torn and worn and funds needed to be set aside for repairs once every two years. He thought that the Princess Alexandra Community Centre should be redeveloped for better utilisation of land. He added that as there was water seepage in the old community centre. For instance, the rain water mains installed inside the community centre by some departments had caused damages to the flooring due to getting damp, thus increasing the fees for repairs. Hence, he hoped that the departments would install the rain water mains outside the community centre. Besides, the usage rate of the community centres in Tsuen Wan was pretty high, not to mention the fact that the committee room was served as a reading room. Due to the limited number of venues, some organisations even had to rent the time slot of the community centres during lunch hour. He also suggested that the departments should consider providing computers for the elderly.

35. The Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael said that as for selection of concrete in paving the hiking trails, the road section from Sheung Tong to Ha Fa Shan of the section of Yuen Tsuen Ancient Trail in Tsuen Wan was repaved with concrete. Many people reflected that in the long run, Hong Kong would lose its rural characteristics. He understood that it was wet in Hong Kong but the hiking trails should not be paved with concrete so as to reduce repair and maintenance fees. He suggested that the hiking trails should be paved with stones and hoped that the departments would review on this aspect. Besides, he enquired how the residents' general meeting to be held under the Ordinance. Some residents relayed to him that when attending the residents' general meeting, they found someone who held a considerable amount of

proxy instruments joining the residents' general meeting on behalf of the absent owners and exercising the right of vote. As a result, the outcome of the resolution did not meet the residents' expectation. He opined that restriction should be imposed on the ratio between the right of ownership of the property owners attending the residents' general meeting and that of the persons assigned by the property owners; otherwise the housing estates would be affected by politics. He hoped that the departments would review on such circumstances.

36. DHA responded as follows:

- (1) the HAD and DOs in all districts would arrange repairs for the facilities in the districts on a regular basis. She noted Members' views on the facilities in the district and the HAD would carry out the refurbishment of the facilities when necessary;
- (2) at present, the newly-designed community centres were incorporated into the multi-storey integrated buildings and the ancillary facilities would become much better;
- (3) as part of the hiking trail connected with the residence area, for the convenience of the residents, residents' views were taken into consideration when deciding how that part of the hiking trail was paved. In future, some other factors such as more changes to the design of the road section near the country park would be taken into account for the pavement of the hiking trails under the minor works, so that it would be convenient for the residents to use and fit in the surrounding environment; and
- (4) the HAD had proposed amendment to the Ordinance that the maximum number of proxy instruments a person could hold should not exceed 5% of the owners. As it took time to make amendments to the Ordinance, the HAD would consider issuing an administrative guideline without making amendment to the Ordinance, inter alia, to remind the people holding the proxy instruments for the flat owners that they should not be held responsible for casting a vote for the flat owners on their wills, so as to improve the procedures and minimise the problems.

37. The Chairman thanked DHA for attending the meeting and collecting Members' views.

VI Item 5: 2016/17 Work Plan of the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) Regional Office (New Territories South West)
(TWDC Paper No. 7/16-17)

38. The Chairman stated that the New Territories West of the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) used to brief Members about its work plan every year. The representatives from the ICAC attending the meeting were Mrs Bernadette COOK, ICAC Regional Officer/New Territories West, Community Relations Department (ICAC Regional Officer) and Ms Amy LAM, Senior Community Relations Officer/New Territories South West.

39. The ICAC Regional Officer introduced the key points of the 2016/17 Work Plan of ICAC, including the implementation of a territory-wide integrity programme,

enhancement of youth probity, consolidation of clean election, promotion of clean building management, enhancement of multisectoral anti-corruption education and better utilisation of mass media in publicity, as well as getting the general public to participate more in the work of integrity and against corruption. She invited the TWDC to co-organise the “All for Integrity” programme in 2016/17 with the TWDO and New Territories South West of the ICAC.

(Note: Ms LAM, Lam Nixie left the meeting at 7:05 p.m.)

40. The Chairman stated that the TWDC would support the ICAC’s work, actively participate in the activities of integrity and cooperate closely with New Territories South West of the ICAC. Members unanimously agreed to co-organise the “All for Integrity” programme in 2016/17 with the ICAC.

VII Item 6: “Strongly Request to Lower the Age Requirement for Elderly Medical Benefits to 65”
(TWDC Paper No. 8/16-17)

41. The Chairman stated that Mr CHAN Yuen-sum, Sumly and Mr WONG Ka-wa submitted the paper. The representative from the Department of Health (DH) responsible for giving response was Dr LOH Lai-ting, Taron, Senior Medical & Health Officer (Community Liaison)¹ (SMO(CL)¹). The written reply from the Food and Health Bureau was tabled at the meeting.

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

43. Mr WONG Ka-wa stated that starting from 2009 and 2012, the Government had launched the Elderly Health Care Voucher (EHV) Scheme and the Elderly Dental Assistance Expanded Programme under the Community Care Fund respectively. At present, the healthcare expenditure on the elderly aged 65 was less than one tenth of the existing Government’s surplus because the elderly did not have to seek medical consultation or receive dental filling every day. The elderly aged 65 had made many contributions to the society when they were young. They could apply for the OALA or other benefits but they could only apply for the HCVs when they reached 70. He thought that it was unfair to the elderly. Some elderly had suffered from dental caries for a long period of time but the Social Welfare Department only provided the grants to cover costs of dental treatment for the low-income earners and recipients of CSSA. People aged 60 living in the Mainland and Macao had already entitled to have medical benefits and the elderly Mainlanders could even take free rides on the metro. He hoped that the Government would respect the elderly who had made contributions to the society when they were young. Although the elderly could apply for the Senior Citizen Card when they reached 65, they still could not have some other benefits because they were not old enough. It was pretty unfair to them. He hoped that the Government would be committed to allowing the elderly aged 65 to use the HCVs.

44. SMO(CL)¹ responded that the DH had launched the EHV Pilot Scheme since 2009 to subsidise Hong Kong elderly aged 70 or above to use the primary care services provided by the private sector. The Government had all along introduced various enhancement measures for the scheme. The voucher amount had increased

progressively from the initial sum of \$250 to \$1,000 and then doubled to \$2,000 in 2014. The scheme was also converted from a pilot project to a recurrent programme. Moreover, the face value of each voucher was changed from \$50 to \$1 to make it more convenient for the elderly to use the vouchers. As at the end of 2015, about 600 000 elderly had made use of the vouchers. The Government noted the aspiration of lowering the age requirement for EHV to 65. According to the Hong Kong Population Projections released by the Census and Statistics Department, the number of the elderly aged 65 would reach 1.4 million in 2020. If the age requirement for EHV was lowered to 65, the Government's commitments on this area would be substantially increased. Hence, regarding the aspiration of lowering the age requirement, the effectiveness of the EHV should be carefully examined and the long-term financial implications to the Government should be fully assessed. We would closely monitor the pattern of using the vouchers and continue to study for enhancement of the EHV Scheme. Besides, the DH was currently conducting a comprehensive review of the EHV Scheme in collaboration with the Chinese University of Hong Kong's Jockey Club School of Public Health and Primary Care and would consider taking enhancement measures for the EHV Scheme as appropriate after taking into account the review findings and the Government's fiscal condition.

45. Mr LO Siu-kit stated that he agreed to lower the age requirement for EHV to 65. The representative from the DH had mentioned previously that in 2020, the number of the elderly aged 65 would reach 1.4 million. He opined that the elderly would seek medical consultation from the Government hospitals when they did not visit private medical practitioners. The pressure of such service needs would shift to the Government hospitals. At present, as the elderly did not have Government subsidies on dental care, they could not get rid of the dental caries and other oral care problems timely. The elderly would not be able to claim the relevant medical benefits because they had probably lost all their teeth when they aged 80. Due to the fact that the elderly would seek medical consultation from the Government's healthcare system and that the public hospitals had the hectic work schedule, the elderly would have to queue up and wait for a chip. He hoped that the collaboration between the public and private dental care institutions would be implemented. Moreover, he hoped that the Government would not make analysis on figures only. In fact, the elderly would use the HCVs to receive medical and dental examinations when in need. Therefore, the Government should accord priority to the elderly' need and make the aspiration happen.

46. Mr CHOW Ping-tim said that he supported lowering the age requirement for elderly medical benefits to 65.

47. Mr KOO Yeung-pong said that he hoped that the age requirement for elderly medical benefits would be lowered to 65. The Government had made analysis on figures and considered the financial expenditures for the aspiration. In recent years, the retirees cared about their health. They loved hiking and doing exercise, so not all of them needed to visit doctors. But it would be too late for the elderly to become eligible for having subsidies for dental care services when they aged 80. To the contrary, if the elderly were subsidised for having dental care services when they aged 65, they would enjoy their lives because their teeth were tidy and healthy. He thought it was a problem that the elderly could only apply for the HCVs when they

aged 70. It was because if they received the HCVs earlier, they would be able to use them to have body checks. It was favourable for them to care about their health when they were still younger. They would not have to visit doctors when they aged 70 because the medical expenses by that time would be higher, thus causing a financial burden to them. Given that the average male mortality by age was 87 and that of female was 93, he hoped that the age requirement for elderly medical benefits would be unified, so that the elderly could live a comfortable life.

48. Mr MAN Yu-ming said that there was a practical need to lower the age requirement for elderly medical benefits. According to the response from the government department, the Government considered the welfare for the elderly from the angle of financial implications. However, he thought that coins and notes should not be taken into account when consideration was made on this aspect. People on-the-job basically would not have any income after they retired at 65. Hence, they should be offered social welfare and allowances. He pointed out that prevention was always better than cure. If the elderly used the HCVs earlier, it helped prevent diseases. He anticipated that social cost could be saved by doing so, thus reducing the expenses on public healthcare in future. Although the immediate effect was not readily available, a better social impact could be achieved when the age requirement for elderly medical benefits was lowered to 65. Instead of upholding the laws, regulations and figures, the Government should focus on the reality of the society and had to keep abreast of time by following the public policies for the society.

49. SMO(CL)1 responded that since the EHV Scheme was launched in 2009, the Government had introduced various enhancement measures for the scheme. The DH was currently conducting a comprehensive review of the EHV Scheme in collaboration with the Chinese University of Hong Kong's Jockey Club School of Public Health and Primary Care. Opinions of the elderly and service providers on the scheme, including its operational arrangements would be collected during the review. The DH would consider the enhancement measures for the EHV Scheme as appropriate after taking into account the review findings and the Government's fiscal condition.

50. Mr CHAN Yuen-sum, Sumly stated that the elderly in need were offered the subsidies on dental services under the Community Care Fund on the Government's response to the dental subsidies for the elderly. The benefitted elderly were required to process a test because only the current recipients of the OALA were eligible for it, but that did not fit in the reality of the society. He requested the Government to lower the age requirement for the subsidies concerned to 65 and let the common elderly receive the subsidies concerned alike the implementation of the EHV. The Kwai Tsing District Council (K&TDO) launched the dental services with \$100 million and gained popularity. There was a keen demand for dental services from the elderly in various districts. He opined that the elderly needed the dental services, no matter they aged 65 or 80. He hoped that the Government would further consider the significance of the elderly dental services and let the elderly aged 65 have the subsidies for the elderly dental services. As for the EHV, he pointed out that the elderly and their children considered that the age requirement of the elderly for HCVs should be lowered. It was expected that the age requirement for EHV would be lowered to 65 after the review was conducted.

51. Mr WONG Ka-wa stated that he thought that he would not mind increasing taxes to cover the expenses incurred by lowering the age requirement for the medical benefits to 65 because such benefits were offered for the elderly. He requested the Government not to make explanations based on figures. The elderly probably would not have such benefits for long and the elderly dental services were not provided in every district in the territory. He expected that the DH would consider and follow up on the demand for the dental services from the elderly.

(Note: Mr CHAN Yuen-sum, Sumly left the meeting at 5:10 p.m.)

52. The Chairman requested the DH to consider Members' views. He stated that the K&TDO had launched the elderly dental services under the Signature Project Scheme of \$100 million in Kwai Tsing district, including the procurement of the mobile clinic and arrangement of healthcare personnel to provide the services. The elderly dental services had gained wide popularity from the general public.

VIII Item 7: Request the Education Bureau to Implement "Zero Homework in Primary Schools so as to Return a Happy Childhood to Children"
(TWDC Paper No. 9/16-17)

53. The Chairman stated that the Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael and Mr CHENG Chit-pun submitted the paper. The representative from the Education Bureau (EDB) responsible for giving response was Mrs TSANG CHAN Mi-fong, Chief School Development Officer (Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing) (CSDO(TW&KT)).

54. The Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael introduced the paper.

55. Mr CHENG Chit-pun said that this topic had been discussed for a long time among certain members of the public. The school children and teachers felt a great pressure on homework. Some teachers agreed that there should be little amount of homework and that teachers could make coordination with each other. He pointed out that a primary school in Lo Tak Court, Tsuen Wan would arrange a homework guidance lesson of 45 minutes after the lessons in the forenoon were finished, so that the school children could finish their homework during the homework guidance lesson or finish the remaining small amount of homework at home. The school children of the primary school would be arranged for taking the lesson of diversified development and learning in the afternoon. He thought that the EDB could draw reference and learn from the said primary school. According to the principal of the primary school, support should be gained from the school per se as well as the teachers and parents, etc. Some parents thought that there was too much homework but some were afraid that their children would lag behind the progress of the school curriculum if there was no homework at all. He therefore hoped that the EDB could provide counselling and coordination on homework arrangements for the schools and parents. Besides, the said primary school had made use of the EDB's School Administration Management Grant and applied the electronic collection of payment and apps to deliver the school notices and collect the reply slips so as to save the administrative expenses of the school and reduce teachers' administrative work. In such a way, the teachers were able to cope with the plan of "zero homework in primary school". He opined that other schools could also learn from the said

primary school and that the EDB should do more on this aspect.

56. CSDO(TW&KT) responded that the EDB had all along concerned about the homework for students and urged schools to formulate the school-based homework policy. On 31 October 2015, the EDB issued the circular on “No Drilling, Effective Learning” to schools which aimed at reminding schools of formulating homework policy based on their school context and students’ learning needs. Meanwhile, the EDB reiterated that a clear learning target and expected learning outcome should be stipulated when designing homework. Also, homework should not be given during the leisure moments in schools and meaningless recitation or “mechanical” drills that hampered effective learning should be avoided. As the whole-day schooling was fully implemented, schools should arrange, as far as possible, lesson time for students to complete part of their homework under teacher’s guidance according to their school context and students’ learning needs. Sometimes, however, students might not be able to finish the homework at school such as the projects on specific topics that required research of information. According to the district offices of the EDB, it was learnt from the schools that not all parents preferred none homework. Some parents even requested schools to give more homework or considered that the homework given by schools were too less. In early 2016, the EDB had organised four regional seminars for representatives from primary schools. Homework policies and experiences were shared through different channels. The EDB would continue to provide professional support for the schools through different channels and approaches. Besides, the EDB had organised parents’ seminars on Territory-wide System Assessment (TSA). More work would be done on this aspect when necessary in future.

57. Mr LI Hung-por stated that he would like to share his views from a teacher’s point of view. He thought that the rationale of zero homework was good but that involved the EDB’s policies. When places for attending universities were insufficient for everyone, parents had already trained their children when they studied in kindergartens. These parents would select kindergarten, primary and secondary schools for their children and even arrange their children to join the interview classes to prepare for studying in primary school. It could be seen that in such an educational reality, the problem was that in order to train the school children as early as possible, parents would certainly start to train their children when they studied in kindergarten so that their children could gain admission to university where places were limited and under keen competition. To achieve the target of admission to university, when there was too little amount of homework, parents not only would reprimand the teachers, they would also regard that the school was not up to the standard. If the school implemented zero homework policy, parents would certainly raise their voice. Hence, the pressure came from the parents. Besides, primary schools had to take part in the external school review once every five years and might take part in the TSA, so that the EDB would know more about the academic level and teaching of the schools. When the EDB conducted the external school review, the result of the TSA of the primary schools would be taken into account. As a result, those schools would still drill their students even though the EDB indicated that the level of the TSA could be a bit lowered. It was because the pressure from admission to university had already emerged since the children got admission to kindergarten. He opined that the intention of submission of the paper was good but in fact, a lot of

problems had to be resolved.

58. Mr KOO Yeung-pong said that he supported this topic of discussion but it was difficult to put it into practice. Students disliked doing homework, dictations and examinations the most. He appreciated the principal of the said primary school for his bold attempt to arrange lesson time for students to complete their homework under teachers' guidance. He thought that it might not be really good to have lots of homework because parents would have to teach their children to finish them. If the homework was finished late night, parents and children would become bad-tempered due to lack of sleep, thus affecting family harmony. Parents usually wished that their new born children would be happy and healthy. But when their children aged three, they would forget about their first thought because they were afraid that their children would "lose at the very beginning of the race". He agreed that it was a long-term target that children should learn happily. Meanwhile, in order to let parents understand that too much concerted cultivation would probably screw up their children, communications and explanations to parents should be enhanced. He pointed out that he was really upset to learn that some primary students committed suicide. In 1968, some schools in the United States had already implemented zero homework policy. He agreed that there was no need to finish homework at home and hoped that the EDB would assist in communication with parents so as to do well in education and let children of the new generation really enjoy learning in a happy mood.

59. The Hon CHAN Han-pan, Ben stated that he hoped that children could have a happy childhood and the amount of homework should be as little as possible. He opined that the problem would not be resolved only by organising talks by the EDB, or making legislation to forbid student from finishing homework at home, or to stop schools from asking their students to finish their homework at home. Alternatively, the society should reach a consensus on child-rearing, i.e. what childhood should be like for the children. If there was no consensus on child-rearing, when schools did not ask their students to finish homework at home, parents would make arrangements for their children to take tuition classes, such as English, Mathematics and drawing, etc. because they think their children were too idle. In this case, even though there was no homework from schools, the children were still busy because they had to finish the homework from other courses. Hence, this was not merely an educational problem but a matter of education and inspiration over the whole society, i.e. our plan for the next generation. He did not think that parents could reach a consensus through the talks organised by the EDB, but he hoped that the society could give a second thought on the growing path for the children and would not shrink the responsibility to the EDB.

60. Mr TAM Hoi-pong supported that primary students should have more leisure time and less homework. He stated that the content of some of the homework were abstracted from the TSA. The EDB had earlier requested schools to reserve one day for the TSA. He thought that the EDB might not be able to change parents' views on homework immediately, but the TSA could be cancelled immediately.

61. Mr NG Hin-lung, Norris said that he was still a student one year ago, so he would like to share his views from a student's perspective. He thought that the EDB

had tried to adopt many different improvement measures, but paradoxically, the problems always turned out to be more complicated. He was among the first cohort for the examination in the form of multiple choice questions followed by four possible answers. As the schools were not clear about the examination in the form of multiple questions followed by four possible answers, they always had to find out what such an examination was. Sometimes, an activity report had to be done and sometimes, research on the examination had to be done. When the EDB launched more and more unclear policies and schools thought that they were unable to match them, teachers and students would have less free time. No homework certainly gained general support, but when students had free time after school, they would join the tuition and interest classes at last. After all, it was the view of the society, i.e. the parents' stance on the purpose of education. It was generally regarded that outstanding children should join a particular profession or gain admission to a particular school subject when they grew up. As currently a number of professions or pathways were not recognised by the society, the ideology had been one-sided, i.e. the quest for admission to university by getting the highest marks and selection of the school subjects which could help earning the highest income after graduation prevailed. He hoped that the EDB would think about the purpose of education and how to change people's mind.

62. Mr WONG Ka-wa said that he knew that primary schools were categorised into different grades. These schools would probably overreach themselves when they tried to meet the requirements of the guidelines from the EDB. The EDB would check over students' homework and examination papers when conducting assessments in the schools. The teachers would be very busy because they had to deal with a large amount of documents generated from the assessment. He enquired the EDB if schools would be allocated more resources to employ the assistant staff or teaching assistants to handle those documents. He pointed out that parents generally would teach their children studying in kindergartens and primary schools to do homework. After their children entered secondary schools or universities, they would be able to study freely and get different knowledge. He opined that schools could assess how long their students would take to finish their homework, so as to prevent them from taking too long to finish their homework. However, if students of kindergarten and primary schools did not need to finish homework at home, their parents would probably ask them to finish other exercise books. Therefore, he hoped that the EDB would strike a balance between the two sides, so that the school children would not be hampered by excessive boosting.

63. CSDO(TW&KT) responded that the EDB was currently conducting the TSA try out study and the detailed arrangements would be confirmed later. At present, as schools was compiling the timetable for the coming year, there was a need for them to reserve the time for the TSA. She had contacted the primary schools in Tsuen Wan district to learn more about the situation. Members of the Tsuen Wan Primary School Heads' Association had all along been in sync with each other. The school heads had established a good practice on sharing the practicable measures on homework policy. The Tsuen Wan District Parent Teacher Association Federation Limited (PTA) had actively assisted in promotion of education affairs. If it was considered necessary to communicate with parents on homework matters, such as organising seminars for experience sharing, it was believed that the two associations

would be pleased to offer assistance. Besides, the primary schools in Tsuen Wan district liaised with parents through different channels, including parents' sessions, PTA meetings, questionnaires and daily contacts, in order to seek parents' views on the homework policies of the primary schools, such as the amount and form of homework, for formulating homework policies taking into account their school specific circumstances and students' needs. As relayed by the schools, parents were generally satisfied with the arrangements made by schools. She would continue to keep liaison with the schools for promotion of experience sharing on homework policy.

64. The Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael stated that when he put forth this topic of discussion, all the Members of Legislative Council from various major political parties showed their support. However, there was a Member who said that there was a reservation over the topic of discussion on today's meeting. It seemed that the communication of the members of the political party concerned was not enough. He could not understand that and felt amazed. He pointed out that the Secretary for Education had announced publicly that guidance had been issued to call for the schools to let most students finish their homework at school. On the other hand, however, the EDB considered that parents were dissatisfied with too little homework. Hence, he could not make clear the position of the EDB on this matter. Under the education reform in early years, the half-day schools were changed into whole-day schools. Under the new rule, the homework should be finished at school and students should only finish homework at home occasionally. Therefore, he enquired the representative from the EDB whether she learnt the purpose of the education reform in early years. Moreover, as the contents of the homework became more difficult, the students had to finish homework at home. Taking the Primary 3 TSA as an example, after comparing the question papers of the Chinese subject ten years ago and five years ago, it was found that the question papers of the Chinese subject currently used were lengthier in smaller font size with more vocabulary of a more advanced standard. As a result, most of the students were unable to finish their homework at school even though the schools were whole-day schools.

65. CSDO(TW&KT) responded that she would learn more about the instruction made by the Secretary for Education publicly for letting most students finish their homework at school and the whole-day schools should let their students finish their homework at school. Regarding the issues such as the content of the homework was becoming more difficult, the TSA and homework policy had already attracted attention from various sectors. The EDB was currently conducting a study for taking consideration to make improvements. She noted Members' views.

66. Mr LI Hung-por said that he agreed to this topic of discussion. He did not mean to object the direction as mentioned in the paper but he was of the view that it was difficult for the EDB to achieve it.

67. The Chairman stated that Members held different views and expressed their opinions at the meetings. As to whether the speech from a Member should tally exactly with that of his political party, comments should not be made right here. He requested the EDB to consider Members' views and Members could further liaise with the EDB after the meeting.

IX Item 8: Request for Enhancing the MTR Fare Adjustment Mechanism
(TWDC Paper No. 10/16-17)

68. The Chairman stated that the Hon CHAN Han-pan, Ben, Mr KOO Yeung-pong, Ms LAM, Lam Nixie and Mr CHAN Chun-chung, Jones submitted the paper. The representative from the government department and company responsible for giving response were Ms Ava Ho, Assistant Public Relations Manager - External Affairs (APRM-EA), MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL), and Mr YUEN Hong-shing, Honson, Chief Transport Officer/NT South West (CTO/NTSW), Transport Department (TD). The written reply from the Transport and Housing Bureau (THB) was tabled at the meeting.

69. The Hon CHAN Han-pan, Ben introduced the paper.

70. Mr LAM Faat-kang said that he was the councillor of Luk Yeung Constituency where most of the residents there were MTR passengers. He supported the recommendations and motion in the paper. Currently, the overall economic situation of Hong Kong was not so good but the MTRCL still earned enormous profits. He opined that the Government's policy was problematic and should be reviewed and that the appeasement measures for public sentiment introduced by the MTR were not enough. He strongly requested the MTR to return wealth to the people and profits to the community, so that the general public was fairly treated. He raised objection to the fare increase by the MTR.

71. Mr LI Hung-por agreed to the motion in the paper, particularly the third recommendation in the paper. He thought that the Government should take the initiative and set up the "stock fund" to distribute the interest from the MTRCL to the stock fund in order to offset the fare increase of the MTRCL while the interest of the minority shareholders would not be affected.

72. Ms LAM Yuen-pun, Phyllis supported the motion in the paper. She thought that the income of the MTRCL was obviously on the surge. Besides, the Government had offered concessions on different policies for the MTRCL, such as construction of buildings on top of the MTR stations. If a good corporate citizenship was not demonstrated through the income so generated, it was of the public's view that the Government should not do such things. Hence, she welcomed the motion and opined that the ticket fares set by the MTRCL should be pegged with its income. It was very appropriate for the Government to take up the role.

73. The Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael gave his views as follows:

- (1) he thought that the MTRCL was sincere because it took up the Government's request on advancing a review on the fare adjustment mechanism and did not make any postponement;
- (2) he was very dissatisfied with the announcement made by the MTRCL the day before. After the fare increase under the fare adjustment formula, the MTRCL should offer reward to the members of the public by pegging with its profit. The sum of reward this year was \$175 million. He considered that the simplest way of offering reward was giving out cash and the real reward should be unconditional. At

present, the income from ticketing of the MTRCL was \$17 billion. If the ticket fare per trip of each passenger was 1% less, a total sum of \$175 million would be generated in one year. This year, a sum of \$75 million, which was out of the total sum of reward of \$175 million from the MTRCL to the members of the public, would be rewarded to the members of the public through other forms of offers and concessions. However, these offers and concessions, which aimed at promotion of business, were not real rewards. Besides, the MTRCL opted to offer half price of the ticket fare to the general public on five Saturdays as a token of reward making use of the remaining \$100 million. By doing so, however, those who took MTR rides might not be the frequent MTR passengers because the frequent passengers of minibuses and buses would change to take MTR due to lower ticket fares. Hence, he thought that the MTRCL was not going to reward the frequent MTR passengers. Such an offer was just provided for the benefits of the people other than those frequent MTR passengers and merely kind of business rivalries. He was extremely disappointed with this and reprimanded the MTRCL; and

- (3) he respected the fare adjustment mechanism. The MTRCL had the fare autonomy hitherto. After the rail merger, a request of establishing a mechanism was put forth. Such a mechanism should be implemented after establishment and adjustment to the mechanism should be considered during review. Therefore, the mechanism should be respected; otherwise it was fairly undesirable if the outcome of review on the mechanism was not put into practice after a review was conducted. He had carefully studied the motion proposed in the paper. Although the direction of the motion proposed in the paper was understood and it was agreed that the fare should be pegged with the profitability, he had reservations over the motion if the fare increase plan was to be shelved for the purpose of relieving the burden of the general public from fare increase. In other words, the MTRCL would probably no longer put forth the fare increase in future. That would be a serious concern to be addressed.

74. APRM-EA of the MTRCL responded that the MTRCL had announced various offers provided by the MTRCL for passengers on 30 May 2016. The MTRCL would introduce the fare promotion package over \$500 million this year, which was more than its extra income of \$400 million brought by the fare adjustment. This year, the MTR passengers were given rewards through different offers and concessions. The sum of those offers and concessions exceeded the extra income earned by the MTR. As regards shelving the fare increase, the MTRCL's investment base was high. In the previous year, the MTRCL had invested \$7 billion in enhancement of its assets, upgrading its railway network and purchase of new trains. The MTRCL was also committed to upgrading its services apart from offering concessions. The fare adjustment mechanism was endorsed by the minority shareholders and served as the outcome of discussion with the Government. The MTRCL would adjust the fares by following suit. As regards pegging with profitability, the MTRCL had concessionary plan pegged with its profitability at present. For example, the MTRCL had arranged to offer rewards to the passengers

based on its profits, such as 10% Same-Day Second-Trip Discount. When conducting a review on the fare adjustment mechanism in future, the MTRCL would consider the way of offering rewards pegged with its profits and whether a fare reward fund was to be set up. The MTRCL noted Members' views and would make reference to them when conducting studies in future.

75. CTO(NTSW) of TD responded that the TD had issued a letter about the MTR fare adjustment mechanism to all districts on 10 May 2016. Public views were welcome during the consultation period and the deadline of the consultation was 19 August 2016.

76. The Hon CHAN Han-pan, Ben stated that in his motion, first of all, the MTRCL was requested to shelve the fare increase this year. He respected the fare adjustment mechanism and hoped that the MTRCL would propose improvement initiatives if fare increase was put forth under the fare adjustment mechanism. The purpose was to offset the rate of fare increase when the public was not required to pay too many fares. For example, the MTRCL could offer concessions to offset the rate of fare increase. On the other hand, the MTRCL should offer concessions if the fare increase would be not shelved this year. Giving two proposals for the MTRCL did not mean that he did not respect the mechanism. The Government was conducting the consultation at the moment. If the motion in the paper was endorsed, he hoped that a letter with the motion and three recommendations in the paper would be issued in the name of the TWDC to request the Government and MTRCL to consider Members' views during the review. He hereby put forth the motion.

77. The Chairman read out the motion that "the TWDC strongly requests the MTRCL to shelf the fare increase plan of this year; even though the fare was increased according to the fare adjustment mechanism, the principle of not increasing the burden of transportation fees of the general public should be adopted and the rate of fare increase of this year should be offset through various concessions." Mr KOO Yeung-pong, Ms LAM, Lam Nixie and Mr CHAN Chun-chung, Jones seconded the motion.

78. Mr CHOW Ping-tim said that the motion deserved support because it was favourable to the general public, through which Members' views could also be relayed.

79. After voting, the above motion was endorsed unanimously.

80. The Chairman asked the TWDC Secretariat to convey the above motion and the three recommendations in the paper to the THB and MTRCL.

(Post-meeting note: The TWDC Secretariat had conveyed the above motion and recommendations to the THB and MTRCL in writing on 7 June 2016.)

81. As the Chairman was required to take part in an activity on behalf of the TWDC, the Vice Chairman would chair the meeting.

(Note: The Chairman and the Hon CHAN Han-pan, Ben left the meeting at 6:05 p.m.)

X Item 9: Request the Hospital Authority to Review the Healthcare System of Yan Chai Hospital and item 10: Request Yan Chai Hospital, Tsuen Wan, to Install the Rapid Test Device for Influenza

(TWDC Paper No. 11/16-17 and TWDC Paper No. 12/16-17)

82. The Acting Chairman said that Mr LI Hung-por submitted the paper. Discussion would be held for agenda item 10 of requesting Yan Chai Hospital (YCH), Tsuen Wan, to install the rapid test device for influenza (TWDC Paper No. 12/16-17 submitted by Mr TAM Hoi-pong) and this agenda item because they were within the same scope. Dr LAI King-kwong, Hospital Chief Executive (HCE), YCH, Hospital Authority (HA) would give response to TWDC Paper No. 11/16-17 and Dr LOH Lai-ting, Taron, SMO(CL)1, DH would give response to TWDC Paper No. 12/16-17.

83. Mr LI Hung-por introduced TWDC Paper No. 11/16-17.

84. Mr TAM Hoi-pong introduced TWDC Paper No. 12/16-17.

85. HCE of YCH responded as follows:

- (1) apart from determining the causes of deaths, the Coroner's Court would consider whether the deceased died of natural causes, misadventure or an accident, according to the course of incident and the doctor's judgement. He would not make any comments at the meeting because the Coroner's Court was making consideration and decision for the incident;
- (2) YCH was not equipped with the device at the moment for conducting the rapid test for Influenza A in 24 hours. The rapid test service for YCH was provided by the Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH). The PMH would issue the laboratory finding reports within 24 hours after YCH sent the specimens during the office hours daily to the laboratory of PMH for testing;
- (3) after the incident, the testing services of public healthcare system was under review by the HA. At present, the 24-hour influenza testing services was only provided by Prince of Wales Hospital (PWH) and Queen Mary Hospital (QMH). After the review, the HA considered that more support could be given to other public hospitals as soon as possible. It was announced that starting from 6 June 2016, the PWH and QMH would provide assistance for other public hospitals in conducting the rapid tests for influenza. If there was a need to conduct the influenza tests, YCH could send the specimens to PWH and QMH for testing. The laboratory results, which were available within 8 to 12 hours the soonest, would be delivered to YCH through the computer system;
- (4) there were a number of causes of fever in patients. The doctor would make judgement as to whether the patient should take anti-influenza medications based on clinical considerations. It was not necessary to prescribe Tamiflu only after the testing result was available;

- (5) a 24-hour pharmacist service was readily available in YCH. The doctor would inform the pharmacy of preparing Tamiflu through the computer after prescribing it. The medication would be delivered to the ward for the patient within one or two hours. Details of an individual case would not be elaborated at the meeting;
- (6) YCH would review its manpower in the annual plan. There were sufficient specialists in the paediatric wards of YCH during night time and the manpower of nurses was also sufficient correspondingly; and
- (7) YCH was required to provide more beds to meet the demand during the influenza peak season. There was news coverage earlier that the medical ward of YCH was full with a usage rate over 130%. The HA would review whether YCH was required to provide more beds. On the other hand, YCH was making funding application for provision of more beds at the moment. The result of the application would be available when its annual plan was stipulated.

86. SMO(CL)1 responded that the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) under the DH had continued its routine surveillance of severe influenza-associated complications or deaths among children aged below 18 years. Both public and private hospitals were required to report to the CHP if there was any case that fulfilled the conditions of reporting or confirmed case upon laboratory test. Upon receiving the reported cases, the CHP would carry out investigation immediately, including checking over the clinical history, clinical diagnosis and laboratory results of the patients, etc. as well as following up the conditions of the contacts. The CHP would also issue press release to provide the information of the relevant cases for risk communication. The CHP had received reports of influenza A infection complicated with encephalitis of children aged below 18 years since 2012. It was found that 0 case was reported in 2012, 6 cases in 2013, 4 cases 2014, 6 cases in 2015 and 4 cases as at end of May 2016. As for the number of influenza-associated deaths, 1 case was reported in 2015 and 2 cases in 2016.

87. Mr LAM Faat-kang stated that YCH was the major organisation that provided healthcare services in the district. The majority of the over 300 000 population in the district relied on the healthcare services provided by YCH. He also received many requests for assistance from the residents. He opined that YCH had a manpower shortage and its manpower should be enhanced. He pointed out that the private hospital in the district had introduced a set of computer testing facilities for blood specimen. The testing result would be available in half an hour. It was very efficient. YCH should consider making procurement for such facilities. He believed that many kind-hearted people were willing to assist YCH in enhancing the rapid test services and the councillors of TWDC were also happy to assist YCH in organising fund-raising for charity. The residents would also support YCH to upgrade its healthcare services. He added that the number of medical blunders of YCH remained stable in the past. He felt heart-breaking for the young child who had lost his valuable life in such an unfortunate incident. So, he suggested that YCH should conduct a review for the incident.

88. Ms LAM Yuen-pun, Phyllis said that the patient's mother in the incident had sought assistance from her. She was heart-broken when knowing that the child had

passed away. She thought that the A&E Department of YCH was in shortage of beds. Recently, when accompanying a volunteer to seek medical consultation in the A&E Department of YCH, she found that the corridors of the hospital were fully aligned with beds. She was once a member of the Kowloon Regional Advisory Committee of the HA. She had relayed to the HA on behalf of YCH that many residents who suffered from heart stroke suddenly or came across accidents would be taken to YCH for treatment without other choices. Duly protection, however, was not provided for the residents in Tsuen Wan because YCH was not as well-equipped as the PMH. If YCH was unable to purchase more facilities due to rejection of application from the HA, she thought that the residents in Tsuen Wan were going to be categorised into different classes and the protection they ought to have would be further minimised. In addition, she opined that it was impossible for YCH to enhance the relevant facilities within a short period of time. She hoped that the HA would provide more support for YCH and conduct a review on the referral procedures of YCH. In the incident, the patient was taken to the PMH for management only after ten hours. She expected that a guideline could be drawn up after the review, so that YCH could transfer the patient to the PMH earlier. This might help save a person's life.

89. Mr WONG Ka-wa stated that he hoped that the HA would flexibly handle the request of enhancement of facilities from YCH by streamlining the relevant application procedures. Although YCH was not equipped with the professional facilities such as rapid test device for influenza at the moment, he thought that the testing result reports could be delivered by e-mail, as a provisional solution. After the battle of SARS in Hong Kong, he hoped that the hospitals in every district would be equipped with this type of device and a paediatric specialty should be set up in each major district. If there was only limited space in hospitals, the HA should consider marking an area in the A&E Departments of the existing hospitals in districts for setting up the paediatric specialty. The area coverage of the services was too wide for YCH. Although YCH had been expanded, it was still difficult to cater for the needs of the population. YCH should continue to be expanded.

90. Mr CHOW Ping-tim stated that he did not have much confidence in YCH because of his mother's experience. He thought that YCH did not consider the human factor when providing the healthcare services due to the testing and healthcare system it had adopted all along. As YCH was not equipped with the rapid test device for influenza, for convenience sake, the specimens were probably sent to the PMH for testing only when the specimens were collected up to a certain specified amount, thus resulting in a delay. The patient in the incident got convulsion. He thought that it was serious but the healthcare personnel probably did not think so. Hence, he did not understand how the emergency cases were categorised. He opined that all hospitals were lack of manpower and the general public was also well aware of this. Members of the public would first choose the public healthcare services because it was economical and efficient. He quoted a case from radio broadcast that a patient's condition had progressed into the late stage. The hospital concerned decided to provide a mandatory treatment for the patient. At last, the patient chose to receive the hospice care service from another hospital for pain relief and did not need to receive the mandatory treatment. He pointed out that from this case, it could be seen that there was no human factor in the healthcare system. He thought that the nature of this case was similar to that of the incident happened in YCH.

91. HCE of YCH responded that he thanked Members for their views and support to YCH. There were some moments during the year in which there were pressing needs on the beds in all public hospital from the public. YCH had even ranked the first on the list of beds fully occupied in hospitals across the territory for a few days. The usage rate reached 130%. The HA was reviewing the number of beds and considered that the overall number of beds was insufficient. How the beds to be added would depend on the yearly plan which was to be approved the Government. As for the paediatric services, the HA would set up a children hospital to centrally handle the particularly serious cases. The paediatric specialists of YCH would provide the primary paediatric services for the residents in Tsuen Wan. He would relay Members' views to the HA and hoped that the forthcoming reviews would be conducted in a better way.

92. Mr TAM Hoi-pong said that starting from 6 June 2016, the specimens for influenza test would be sent to the two hospitals for processing. He thought that it was unreasonable to get these specimens tested in other hospitals despite the incident happened, not to mention there was some distance between those hospitals. As there was some distance between the places in delivery of the specimens and the bacteria was strongly resistant, for the sake of the patients seeking medical consultation in YCH and the PMH and having learnt a lesson from the incident, he hoped that YCH would make more efforts in striking for provision of rapid test services for influenza at night time in Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing of the New Territories West.

93. Mr LI Hung-por stated that he understood that the healthcare personnel were under a great pressure. As for the problem of specimens for influenza tests mentioned earlier, the patient in the incident was transferred to the PMH for treatment in more than ten hours after being taken to YCH at 10 p.m. or so. At that time, the attending doctor of the PMH had informed the parents of the patient that the brain stem of the patient was dead, according to the clinical experiences of the attending doctor. If YCH conducted the rapid test for the patients promptly, it would probably have taken a turn for the better. However, the laboratory result would only be available after ten hours or more because the specimen had to be sent to other hospital for processing the test by then. Although the new arrangement of influenza test had been implemented since 6 June 2016, he thought that similar incidents, if any, could not be effectively handled under such an arrangement. He enquired whether a huge sum of expenditures would be incurred by provision of rapid test for influenza from YCH and all hospitals; and whether the HA or the hospitals concerned could bear the expenditures incurred. As the patient of the case was a child aged six who got a fever of 42 degree Celsius, he enquired whether there was still room for improvement after the new arrangement was implemented on 6 June 2016 and whether YCH could provide in-house rapid test services for influenza. He understood that discussions might have to be held between YCH and the HA and that the answer for his enquiry would probably be unavailable on this day. Besides, the patient in the incident was given two injections for treating convulsion and Tamiflu was prescribed only when it was 7:45 a.m. As a result, the patient could only take the medicine at 10 a.m. He enquired why it took two hours for preparation of Tamiflu in the hospital. There was really room for improvement on this aspect.

94. The Acting Chairman said that starting from 6 June 2016, the testing result of rapid test for influenza would be available within 8 to 12 hours, which was shortened from 24 hours. The patient in the incident did not receive the test when admitted to hospital. Even if he could receive the test under the new arrangement, it still took a considerable period of time to get the result. If resources were available for provision of the rapid test device for the hospitals in the districts, he believed that it would help expedite the medical process and time, and more protection could be given to the residents in Tsuen Wan who needed the services. He believed that Members would put forth the same request and enquiry.

95. HCE of YCH responded that the Coroner's Court was considering the incident at the moment. Apart from determining the cause of death, the Coroner's Court would propose recommendations for improvement of the procedures concerned when necessary. YCH was temporarily unable to provide the 24-hour influenza test and only the PWH and QMH would provide such services at present. The PMH, which gave support to YCH, would only provide such services from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The HA was deemed to have made a quick response to provide support for other hospitals by making arrangement starting from 6 June 2016 after the review. As to whether the rapid test services for influenza would be provided by all hospitals, the HA would consider whether the services were the priority services to be offered when a review on allocation of resources was conducted in future.

96. The Acting Chairman asked HCE of YCH to relay Members' views, requests and worries to the HA.

XI Item 11: Crime Brief for Tsuen Wan District – Comparison of Crime Statistics between March to April 2016 and March to April 2015
(TWDC Paper No. 13/16-17)

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

XII Item 12: Crime Brief for Ma Wan – March to April 2016
(TWDC Paper No. 14/16-17)

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

XIII Item 13: Application for Funds by Environmental and Health Affairs Committee for District Minor Works Under Minor Environmental Improvement Project
(TWDC Paper No. 15/16-17)

99. The Secretary introduced the paper.

100. Mr TAM Hoi-pong said that he respected the voting result of the Environmental and Health Affairs Committee (EHAC), but he had some views on the district minor works item 13 – Construction Works of Rain Shelter in Mei Wan Street near Way Lee Industrial Centre, Tsuen Wan. When conducting the site inspection, he did not note that there was an existing covered footbridge with the same function connecting D · PARK and Tsuen Wan Centre. He considered that the two projects overlapped. Hence, he took this opportunity to express that he did not support the works concerned. He also hoped that the project could be voted separately.

101. The Acting Chairman stated that the project concerned had already been considered, discussed and endorsed by the EHAC. As the estimates of individual project item exceeded the EHAC's authority of funding ceiling of \$220,000, the funding application should be submitted to the TWDC for approval. As the EHAC was held responsible for the mechanism in making consideration and decision for conducting the project items, the TWDC noted Member's views on the mechanism. Members could also express their views to the EHAC for further discussion.

102. After voting, the application for District Council funds for the district minor works under Minor Environmental Improvement Project was endorsed with a vote of 10 in favour, 0 against and 2 abstention.

XIV Item 14: Application for District Council Funds by Tsuen Wan District Civic Education Committee
(TWDC Paper No. 16/16-17)

103. The Secretary introduced the paper and stated that Mr CHUNG Wai-ping, the Chairman, Mr LAM Faat-kang, Mr LO Siu-kit and Mr WONG Ka-wa were the Members of the Tsuen Wan District Civic Education Committee (the Committee) for declaration of interest for their membership of the Committee.

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

105. The Acting Chairman approved that the Members who had declared their membership of Tsuen Wan District Civic Education Committee could discuss and vote, according to section 48(11) of the Standing Orders.

106. Members unanimously endorsed the following funding applications:

	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Applying Organisation/ Co-organiser</u>	<u>Amount approved</u> (\$)
(1)	“Live a Green Life Love Our Earth” Environmental Protection Competition	The Yuen Yuen Institute Social Service Department	15,888.00
(2)	Happy “TEEN” in Tsuen Wan – Social Service Scheme	The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups Tsuen Wan Youth S.P.O.T.	54,000.00
(3)	Social Inclusion Carnival in Tsuen Wan	Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong Tsuen Wan Centre	80,000.00
(4)	“Love Home, Love HK, Love Our Earth” One-day Eco-trip	The Yuen Yuen Institute Social Service Department	21,112.00

XV Item 15: Application for District Council Funds by Tsuen Wan District Office

(TWDC Paper No. 17/16-17)

107. The Secretary introduced the paper.

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

109. Members unanimously endorsed the following funding applications:

	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Applying Organisation/ Co-organiser</u> <u>(in brackets “()”)</u>	<u>Amount approved</u> <u>(\$)</u>
(1)	2016/17 Tsuen Wan District Private Buildings Building Management Certificate Course	(The Hong Kong Institute of Housing)	16,998.50
(2)	Arts Performance for Enjoyment of Families in Tsuen Wan 2016	Tsuen Wan Culture & Recreation Co-ordinating Association Limited	400,000.00

XVI Item 16: Application for District Council Funds by Tsuen Wan Safe and Healthy Community Steering Committee

(TWDC Paper No. 18/16-17)

110. The Secretary introduced the paper and stated that Mr CHAN Sung-ip had declared interest as the Vice Chairman of Tsuen Wan Safe and Healthy Community Steering Committee.

111. The Acting Chairman asked Members if they had to make declaration of interest. Mr LO Siu-kit and Mr WONG Ka-wa made declaration for their membership of Tsuen Wan Safe and Healthy Community Steering Committee.

112. The Acting Chairman decided that Members who had declared interest could not discuss and vote but they could remain in the meeting as observers, according to section 48(11) of the Standing Orders.

113. Members unanimously endorsed the following funding applications:

	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Amount Approved</u> <u>(\$)</u>
(1)	Tsuen Wan Safe and Health Community Day	66,960.00

(Note: Mr NG Hin-lung, Norris left the meeting at 7:00 p.m.)

XVII Item 17: Application for District Council Funds by Tsuen Wan Committee for Celebration of Reunification of Hong Kong with China
(TWDC Paper No. 19/16-17)

114. The Secretary introduced the paper.

115. The Acting Chairman declared interest as the Vice Chairman of Tsuen Wan Committee for Celebration of Reunification of Hong Kong with China and the member of Federation of All Sections of Tsuen Wan Community Limited but he did not get involved in pecuniary interest. As the Acting Chairman had made declaration of interest, Members agreed that Mr KOT Siu-yuen assumed the post of Provisional Chairman and chaired the meeting.

116. The Secretary stated that Mr CHAN Sung-ip had declared interest as the Chairman of Ma Wan Rural Committee; that Mr MAN Yu-ming had declared interest as the Vice Chairman of Tsuen Wan Committee for Celebration of Reunification of Hong Kong with China and Vice Chairmanship of Federation of All Sections of Tsuen Wan Community Limited; that Mr CHAN Chun-chung, Jones had declared interest as Vice Chairman of Tsuen Wan Kwai Tsing Residents Association; and that Mr KOO Yeung-pong had declared interest as the Vice Chairman of Federation of All Sections of Tsuen Wan Community Limited.

117. The Provisional Chairman asked Members to make declaration of interest. Ms LAM Yuen-pun, Phyllis made declaration of her Vice Chairmanship of Tsuen Wan Youth Association and Hong Kong Federation of Social Group and Community Workers, i.e. the two affiliated associations of Tsuen Wan Area Committee of New Territories Association of Societies and her Directorship of Happy Home of Yan Chai Hospital. In addition, Mr LO Siu-kit made declaration of his membership of Tsuen Wan Committee for Celebration of Reunification of Hong Kong with China.

118. The Provisional Chairman decided that the Members who had declared interest could not discuss and vote but they could remain in the meeting as observers, according to section 48(11) of the Standing Orders.

119. Mr CHOW Ping-tim said that it was not necessary for him to make declaration of interest because he did not take up the Vice Chairman of Tsuen Wan Committee for Celebration of Reunification of Hong Kong with China although he had been invited to do so. He opined that the number of organisations involved in the activities of Tsuen Wan Committee for Celebration of Reunification of Hong Kong with China supported by DC funds had been increased. However, the district organisations that he was connected were not invited to be the co-organisers. He thought that the organisers would make consideration from political point of view when selecting the co-organisers. But, public activities should not be incorporated with too many political elements. He also pointed out that the famous organisations in the district such as the business association, rural committee, Federation of All Sections of Tsuen Wan Community Limited, Yuen Yuen Institute and YCH working as the co-organisers was acceptable. He was dissatisfied with the abuse in invitation of co-organisers for TWDC activities by the organisers and opined that the organisers might broadly invite the preferred organisations to offer assistance for other activities. In order to avoid giving an impression that the activity concerned was exclusively

held for certain organisations, he suggested that the organiser concerned should not abuse in invitation of co-organisers for TWDC activities. In particular, the names of those co-organisers were in the papers of application for DC funds. He hoped that everyone would take it seriously. It should not be politicised and abuse in invitation of co-organisers should be avoided. He considered that this was not a healthy trend for the TWDC.

120. Mr LI Hung-por agreed with Mr CHOW Ping-tim's views.

121. Mr TAM Hoi-pong appreciated Mr CHOW Ping-tim for his courage. He opined that some co-organisers gave an impression of strong political stance. The situation of Hong Kong had become worse since the transfer of sovereignty. He thought that this should not be celebrated. Instead, consideration should be taken to make things right midst chaos. He therefore objected to the funding application.

122. Mr CHOW Ping-tim requested to record the reasons for objection raised by him. The Provisional Chairman agreed to his request.

123. Mr CHOW Ping-tim agreed to the nature of the activity concerned but objected to the abuse in invitation of co-organisers, resulting in the activity concerned having a strong political stance. It had violated the traditional style and mind set of the TWDC. He hoped that improvements would be made in future.

124. Mr LI Hung-por stated that the activity concerned was acceptable. However, he hoped that the organisations of the activity concerned should consider whether they should invite any other co-organisers when making preparation for the activity concerned. Hence, he would not object to the application.

125. Mr CHOW Ping-tim requested to vote by open ballot. The Provisional Chairman agreed to his request.

126. The Provisional Chairman invited Members to vote for the funding application. The voting result was listed as follows:

For (a total of 3 votes)

Provisional Chairman, Mr LAM Faat-kang and Mr CHENG Chit-pun

Against (a total of 2 votes)

Mr CHOW Ping-tim and Mr TAM Hoi-pong

Abstention (a total of 2 votes)

Mr LI Hung-por and Mr WONG Ka-wa

127. The Provisional Chairman announced that the following funding application was endorsed:

	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Applying Organisation/ Co-organiser (in brackets “()”)</u>	<u>Amount Approved (\$)</u>
(1)	Celebration for the 19th Anniversary of Reunification of Hong Kong with China with Vitality and Love by All Sectors in Tsuen Wan	Tsuen Wan Committee for Celebration of Reunification of Hong Kong with China (New Territories Preparatory Committee for Activities of Celebration of Reunification of Hong Kong with China, Tsuen Wan Rural Committee, Ma Wan Rural Committee, Tsuen Wan Trade Association Limited, Federation of All Sections of Tsuen Wan Community Limited, Tsuen Wan Area Committee of New Territories Association of Societies, Yuen Yuen Institute, Yan Chai Hospital, Kids’ Mind and Kid’s Growth CPU, Hong Kong Industrial and Commercial Association – Youth Link, LPG Volunteer Association, Tsuen Wan Kwai Tsing District Women’s Association, Tsuen Wan Kwai Tsing Residents Association and Cheung Ching Friends Association)	250,000.00

128. The Acting Chairman resumed the meeting.

XVIII Item 18: Information Papers

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

- (1) Report of District Facilities Management Committee (TWDC Paper No. 20/16-17);

- (2) Report of Culture, Recreation and Sports Committee
(TWDC Paper No. 21/16-17);
- (3) Report of Traffic and Transport Committee
(TWDC Paper No. 22/16-17);
- (4) Report of Community Building, Planning and Development Committee
(TWDC Paper No. 23/16-17);
- (5) Report of Social Services and Community Information Committee
(TWDC Paper No. 24/16-17);
- (6) Report of Coastal Affairs Committee
(TWDC Paper No. 25/16-17);
- (7) Report of Environmental and Health Affairs Committee
(TWDC Paper No. 26/16-17);
- (8) Report of District Management Committee
(TWDC Paper No. 27/16-17);
- (9) Items Endorsed by Circulation by the Tsuen Wan District Council during the Period from 15 March 2016 to 23 May 2016
(TWDC Paper No. 28/16-17);
- (10) Financial Statement of Tsuen Wan District Council Funds as at 16 May 2016
(TWDC Paper No. 29/16-17)

XIX Item 19: Any Other Business

130. The Acting Chairman stated that the funding application for Tsuen Wan District Signature Project Scheme – “Development of the Sai Lau Kok Garden” had been endorsed by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council on 22 April 2016. The Architectural Services Department had issued the tender document on 27 May 2016. It was anticipated that it took about six months to process the tendering and the works would be commenced at the end of 2016. Before the construction works commenced, a Ground-breaking Ceremony would be held for all Members and localities of the district under invitation to witness the kick-off of the project which was expected and discussed for years in Tsuen Wan. The TWDO would follow up the progress of the works and timely reported to the TWDC.

131. The Acting Chairman said that the TWDO had sought TWDC’s views on the “District-led Actions Scheme” on 22 March 2016. As there were majority views on according priority to handle the two district issues, namely, the “shop front extensions in town centre” and “anti-mosquito” work, the Tsuen Wan District Management Committee had endorsed at its meeting on 26 April 2016 that the two district issues above would be firstly incorporated into the “District-led Actions Scheme” in Tsuen Wan during the current year. The government departments concerned had started to discuss the details for the work plan, including the arrangements on the public participation, publicity and joint operations. Individual departments, including the TWDO had also started the enhanced anti-mosquito and grass-cutting work. The TWDO would continue to follow up on the progress of the Scheme.

132. The Acting Chairman stated that the Women’s Commission would continue to launch the “Funding Scheme For Women’s Development” in 2016/17. \$53,000 would be distributed through each of the 18 District Councils (DCs) to

women's groups and relevant non-governmental organisations in organising more activities for promotion of women's development in districts and building harmonious communities. The theme for the Funding Scheme in 2016/17 was "Women's Employment". He suggested that this matter should be referred to the Social Services and Community Information Committee (SSCIC) for follow-ups according to the arrangement made in the last DC term.

133. Members unanimously agreed that the TWDC supported the aforesaid Funding Scheme and referred this matter to the SSCIC for follow-ups.

134. The Acting Chairman stated that the Elderly Commission would launch the "Funding Scheme for Age-friendly Community" by providing \$53,000 for each of the 18 District Councils to promote and set up the work for "Age-friendly Community" as well as implementing the initiatives relating to "Age-friendly Community" at district level. The theme of the Funding Scheme this year was "An Age-friendly Community for Active Ageing". Tsuen Wan district had participated in the World Health Organization's "Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities" in February 2015. He suggested that this matter should be referred to the SSCIC for follow-ups.

135. Members unanimously agreed that the TWDC supported the aforesaid Funding Scheme and referred this matter to the SSCIC for follow-ups.

136. The Acting Chairman said that the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) had served a notice earlier that the EPD would provide a maximum funding of \$200,000 to each DC to continue to implement the Community Participation Programme in Environmental Protection under the theme of "Community Waste Less Action - Waste Not, Re-Use More, Recycle Properly" in 2016/17 through organising the promotional campaigns with the district organisations as appropriate in order to cultivate the value of "Use Less, Waste Less, Clean Recycle" amongst the public at the community level for practice of green lives. He suggested that this matter should be referred to the EHAC for follow-ups according to the arrangement made in the last DC term.

137. Members unanimously agreed that the TWDC supported the programme and referred this matter to the EHAC for follow-ups.

138. The Acting Chairman stated that the 6th Hong Kong Games Organising Committee (the Committee) invited the DCs to nominate a DC Member to take up the post of the Committee member. Mr CHAN Kam-lam, the Chairman of the Culture, Recreation and Sports Committee, had served as a member of the 5th Hong Kong Games Organising Committee on behalf of the TWDC. He asked members to nominate a TWDC Member to take up the post of the Committee member.

139. Members unanimously agreed that Mr KOT Siu-yuen would serve as a member of the 6th Hong Kong Games Organising Committee on behalf of the TWDC.

140. The Acting Chairman said that the Committee made application for displaying the TWDC logo at the activities and items for publicity of the 6th Hong

Kong Games.

141. Members unanimously endorsed the Committee's application of using the TWDC logo.

142. Mr WONG Ka-wa stated that discussion should be held for the traffic congestions in the road sections involved in Hong Kong Cyclothon 2016 (TWDC Paper No. 4/16-17). In addition, he enquired about the latest progress of the MTR construction site in Kwok Shui Road.

143. The Acting Chairman said that matters in relation to Hong Kong Cyclothon 2016 should be referred to the Traffic and Transport Committee for consideration of further discussion at its meetings. As for the latest progress of the MTR construction site in Kwok Shui Road, he asked the TWDO to contact the Member concerned after the meeting, if necessary.

144. The Acting Chairman reminded Members that the next meeting was scheduled on 26 July 2016 and the deadline of submission of paper was 11 July 2016.

XX Adjournment of Meeting

145. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat
July 2016