

(Translation)

Minutes of the 9th Meeting of
Social Services and Community Development Committee (2/21-22)

Date : 18 June 2021
Time : 2:30 p.m.
Venue : Main Conference Room, Tsuen Wan District Office

Present:

Members

Mr WONG Ka-wa (Chairman)
Ms CHAN Kim-kam (Vice Chairman)
Mr MAN Yu-ming, MH
Mr LI Hung-por
Mr YAU Kam-ping, BBS, MH
Mr YICK Shing-chung, Angus
Mr LAM Sek-tim
Mr CHAN Sung-ip, MH
Mr CHAN Yuen-sum, Sumly
Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio
Mr CHIU Yan-loy
Mr LAU Chi-hung
Mr LAU Cheuk-yu
Mr PUN Long-chung, Roy
Mr LAU Jackson
Mr LAI Man-fai
Mr TSE Man-chak

Government Representatives

Ms LEE Lai-kiu, Winnie	Senior Liaison Officer (2), Tsuen Wan District Office
Ms LUI Ka-wing	Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (TW/KwT)3, Social Welfare Department
Ms WONG Sau-man, Samantha	Senior School Development Officer (Tsuen Wan)1, Education Bureau

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat
Representatives

Miss LAM Siu-yung, Daisy	Senior Executive Officer (District Council), Tsuen Wan District Office
Mr YIM Hong-yue, Owen (Secretary)	Executive Officer (District Council) 3, Tsuen Wan District Office
Mr NG Cheuk-pong, James	Executive Officer (District Council) 4, Tsuen Wan District Office

Attendance by Invitation:

For discussion of item 5

Ms CHAN Sik-yan

Deputy District Leisure Manager (Tsuen Wan) District Support, Leisure and Cultural Services Department

For discussion of item 6

Ms CHAN Sik-yan

Deputy District Leisure Manager (Tsuen Wan) District Support, Leisure and Cultural Services Department

For discussion of item 7

Mr CHOI Wai-wing

Senior Health Inspector (Cleansing & Pest Control) Tsuen Wan 1, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

The Meeting

I Opening Remarks and Introduction

The Chairman welcomed the Members and representatives from the government departments to the 9th meeting of the Social Services and Community Development Committee (SSCDC).

2. The Chairman reminded Members of section 28 of the Tsuen Wan District Council Standing Orders (the “Standing Orders”) that unless otherwise agreed by the Chairman, each Member could speak once only for each agenda item at the meeting. For each agenda item, a maximum of four Members could speak and each of them could speak up to 1.5 minutes. The Member(s) who had submitted a paper would have up to 3 minutes to introduce the paper and speak. The representatives of the departments would have up to 3 minutes to give response.

II Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes of the 8th Meeting held on 23.4.2021

3. The Chairman said that the Secretariat did not receive any proposed amendment before the meeting. The minutes of the meeting were confirmed without amendment.

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

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

IV Item 3: Application for District Council Funds as regards Activities Co-organised by the Working Group on Integrated Community Services and Community Education and District Organisations
(SSCDC Paper No. 6/21-22)

5. The Secretary introduced the paper, and said that the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Mr MAN Yu-ming, Mr LI Hung-por, Mr YICK Shing-chung, Angus, Mr LAM Sek-tim, Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio, Mr CHIU Yan-loy, Mr LAU Chi-hung, Mr PUN Long-chung, Roy and Mr LAU Jackson were Members of the Working Group on Integrated Community Services and Community Education (WGICSCE), so as to indicate that they had declared their memberships.

6. The Chairman said that as he had declared his membership of the WGICSCE, which was a nominal post title, he could continue to chair the meeting and participate in the discussion, decision-making and voting of the funding applications concerned. Besides, he decided that Members who were concurrently Members of the WGICSCE could participate in the discussion, decision-making and voting of the funding applications concerned in accordance with section 48(12) of the Standing Orders.

7. Mr CHAN Yuen-sum, Sumly declared that he was the Honorary President of the Tsuen Wan Safe and Healthy Community Steering Committee. The Chairman decided that the Member who bore a nominal post title in the organiser of the activity concerned could participate in the discussion, decision-making and voting of the funding application concerned in accordance with section 48(12) of the Standing Orders.

8. The Vice Chairman declared that she was a Member of the Executive Committee of the Hong Kong Women Workers' Association. Mr CHAN Sung-ip and Mr YAU Kam-ping declared that they were the Vice Chairman and Member of the Tsuen Wan Safe and Healthy Community Steering Committee respectively. The Chairman decided that Members who concurrently held a substantive position in the organisers of the activities concerned should remain silent during the discussion of the funding applications concerned and be refrained from participating in the decision-making or voting of the funding applications concerned in accordance with section 48(12) of the Standing Orders.

9. The views and enquiries of Members were summarised as follows:

- (1) he enquired which applicant organisation was not an organisation under the Social Welfare Department (SWD) or the SWD's subvention (Mr TSE Man-chak);
- (2) she hoped to express views on the arrangement of the circulation of paper adopted by the WGICSCE, and said that her speech was irrelevant to the contents of the funding applications. In her opinion, Members were not given sufficient time to consider whether the various funding applications should be endorsed under the arrangement of circulation of paper adopted by the WGICSCE. She hoped that the WGICSCE would convene meetings in the future so as to enable Members to thoroughly review and discuss the direction of activities involving the use of funding and other relevant details. She also held that the lack of venues was not a ground for the failure to convene meetings of the Tsuen Wan District Council (TWDC) or its Committees and Working Groups. The Main Conference Room of the Tsuen Wan District Office (TWDO)

- should first and foremost be reserved for convening meetings related to the TWDC (the Vice Chairman);
- (3) he allowed the Members who had made declaration of their interests to speak on issues irrelevant to the contents of the funding applications. Incidentally, he would give supplementary information on the applicant organisations which were under the SWD or the SWD's subvention after the meeting (the Chairman);
 - (4) he was aware that the Chairman and other Members wished to convene a meeting of the WGICSCE, and had thus made enquiries to the Secretariat. He learnt that some of the applicant organisations had submitted their application forms rather late, and so a meeting of the WGICSCE could not be arranged in time before the SSCDC's meeting. Besides, there were no suitable venues available for a WGICSCE's meeting during the above period. In this connection, he reminded Members to urge the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to submit the application forms as early as possible so that the Secretariat could arrange a venue for the WGICSCE to convene a meeting in a prompt and pertinent manner (Mr CHAN Yuen-sum, Sumly);
 - (5) he opined that the meeting schedule of the TWDO was tight, and suggested that the TWDO should consider utilising its other venues, so that the Main Conference Room in the TWDO could be used for the meetings of the TWDC and its Committees and Working Groups. In addition, he believed that holding a WGICSCE's meeting was better than the circulation of paper in that Members were able to thoroughly discuss the details of various activities as well as the allocation of funding to these activities. Besides, he remarked that the direction of the activities mentioned in the paper was positive and the use of funding on such activities was appropriate. Therefore, he would support the funding applications concerned. Lastly, he called on Members to support the activity "A Call to Spirit" and show concern for the mental health development of the youth (Mr PUN Long-chung, Roy); and
 - (6) he opined that some of the materials used in the activity " 'Body, Mind, Spirit' BMS Training Camp" under the third funding application might inflict damage to community harmony and contravene the laws of Hong Kong. He hoped that the SSCDC would write to the Home Affairs Department (HAD) for clarification (Mr LAU Cheuk-yu).

10. The Secretary said that Members' views were noted.

11. The Chairman asked Members to vote on the first, second and fourth to sixteenth funding applications, and announced that Members unanimously endorsed the following 15 funding applications:

	<u>Name of Activity</u>	<u>Applicant Organisation/ Co-organiser</u>	<u>Amount Approved</u> (\$)
(1)	"Walk with	Hong Kong Women	40,000.00

	Caregivers” Community Care Service	Workers’ Association	
(2)	Be an “Efficient Worker”	Hong Kong Women Workers’ Association	40,000.00
(4)	Psycho Slash	Jockey Club Riviera Gardens Lutheran Integrated Service Centre	40,000.00
(5)	Graphic Artists – Community Tour Scheme	Boys’ and Girls’ Clubs Association of Hong Kong Sham Tseng Children and Youth Integrated Services Centre	40,140.00
(6)	“A Call to Spirit”	Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong Tsuen Wan Centre	40,000.00
(7)	Ethnic Minority Services 2021	Hong Kong Children and Youth Services Jockey Club Belvedere Garden Integrated Children and Youth Services Centre	41,500.00
(8)	Family Growth Programme – Dance with Children	Caritas Jockey Club Integrated Service for Young People – Lei Muk Shue	45,000.00
(9)	A New Start in Tsuen Wan	Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong Kwai Tsing & Tsuen Wan Youth Outreaching Social Work Team	45,000.00
(10)	“Let’s Tour Hong Kong” An Immersive Encounter with Poverty Programme	Caritas Community Centre - Tsuen Wan	40,000.00
(11)	Children Talent Development Programme	Caritas Community Centre - Tsuen Wan	40,000.00
(12)	“Fun Games” Outreaching Promotion Programme	SAHK Shek Wai Kok Parents Resource Centre	40,000.00
(13)	uProject The Story of Tsuen Wan	Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups Tsuen Wan Youth S.P.O.T	49,340.00
(14)	Happiness in Families under Epidemic	Tsuen Wan Safe and Healthy Community Steering Committee	40,000.00

(15)	Amazing Teens – Tsuen Wan CYC Inter-school Leadership Training Programme 2021	Hong Kong Children and Youth Services Jockey Club Belvedere Garden Integrated Children and Youth Services Centre	42,300.00
(16)	Lunar New Year Carnival in Lei Muk Shue	My Fair Club Limited	60,000.00

12. The Chairman asked Members to vote on the third funding application. The voting result was 9 votes in favour, 0 against and 5 abstention. The following funding application was endorsed:

	<u>Name of Activity</u>	<u>Applicant Organisation/ Co-organiser</u>	<u>Amount Approved (\$)</u>
(3)	“Body, Mind, Spirit” BMS Training Camp	Caritas Jockey Club Integrated Service for Young People – Lei Muk Shue	45,000.00

V Item 4: Application for District Council Funds as regards Activities Co-organised by the Task Force on Care for the Elderly, Rehabilitation and Community Information and District Organisations
(SSCDC Paper No. 7/21-22)

13. The Secretary introduced the paper, and said that the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Mr MAN Yu-ming, Mr LI Hung-por, Mr YICK Shing-chung, Angus, Mr LAM Sek-tim, Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio, Mr CHIU Yan-loy, Mr LAU Chi-hung, Mr PUN Long-chung, Roy and Mr LAU Jackson were Members of the Task Force on Care for the Elderly, Rehabilitation and Community Information (TFCERCI), so as to indicate that they had declared their memberships.

14. The Chairman said that as he had declared his membership of the TFCERCI, which was a nominal post title, he could continue to chair the meeting and participate in the discussion, decision-making and voting of the funding applications concerned. Besides, he decided that Members who were concurrently Members of the TFCERCI could participate in the discussion, decision-making and voting of the funding applications concerned in accordance with section 48(12) of the Standing Orders.

15. The Chairman asked if Members had to make declarations of other interests. No Member made a declaration of other interests.

16. The views and enquiries of Members were summarised as follows:

- (1) she noticed that the registered address of Community Rehabilitation Network Lei Cheng Uk Centre under The Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation was not located in Tsuen Wan district. She enquired whether the organisation was eligible to apply for funding because it had

a district service centre in Tsuen Wan; or merely because the nature of the activity in the funding application concerned was to serve members of the public in Tsuen Wan district. In her opinion, this question could help Members to identify suitable applicant organisations in the future. She added that the SSCDC had also previously endorsed funding applications submitted by organisations with a district service centre in Tsuen Wan, even though the registered addresses of such applicant organisations were not in Tsuen Wan district. Additionally, she considered that the activity “Impeding 3-Highs Operation” was meaningful and could benefit the residents of Tsuen Wan district. Therefore, she supported the funding application concerned (the Vice Chairman); and

- (2) none of the District Councils required that the applicant organisations should have a district service centre in their respective districts. He would ask the Secretary to explain to Members the criteria for applicant organisations after the meeting (the Chairman).

17. The Chairman asked Members to vote on the paper, and announced that the SSCDC unanimously endorsed the following two funding applications:

	<u>Name of Activity</u>	<u>Applicant Organisation/ Co-organiser</u>	<u>Amount Approved (\$)</u>
(1)	Pain-free Life Happy Travel Exhibition	Yan Chai Hospital Fong Yock Yee Neighbourhood Elderly Centre	35,000.00
(2)	Impeding 3-Highs Operation	Community Rehabilitation Network Lei Cheng Uk Centre under The Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation	30,000.00

VI Item 5: Adopting “Rebuild One’s Life” as the Key Approach to Handling the Issue of Homeless People in Tsuen Wan District
(SSCDC Paper No. 8/21-22)

18. The Chairman said that Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio submitted the paper. The representatives from the government departments responsible for giving response were:

- (1) Ms LUI Ka-wing, Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing)³ (ADSWO (TW/KwT)³), SWD;
- (2) Ms LEE Lai-kiu, Winnie, Senior Liaison Officer (2) (SLO(2)), TWDO; and
- (3) Ms CHAN Sik-yan, Deputy District Leisure Manager (Tsuen Wan) District Support (DDLMTW)DS), Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD).

19. Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio introduced the paper.

(Note: Mr CHAN Sung-ip left the meeting at 3:11 p.m. Mr YAU Kam-ping left the meeting at 3:13 p.m.)

20. The views and enquiries of Members were summarised as follows:

- (1) homeless people tended to isolate themselves and have a lack of friends. As they were unwilling to engage or communicate with others, they could easily become self-loathing. Such being the case, he hoped that “Rebuild One’s Life” would be adopted as the key approach to handling the issue of homeless people to give them confidence and care. He opined that the LCSD could provide the holiday camps for accommodation by homeless people, who could then open up to others and chat at nighttime. He would not mind participating in such an activity. In addition, he had made enquiries to the guesthouse industry, and learnt that the bedspaces in the guesthouses of Hong Kong were charged at reasonable rates. If the Government was willing to discuss with relevant persons, it might be possible to arrange accommodation for the homeless people at even lower rates. He believed that this proposal would be feasible as long as the social workers could remind the homeless people to cleanse and disinfect themselves before entering the guesthouses. Lastly, besides arranging accommodation, it was equally important to provide homeless people with employment counselling (Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio);
- (2) he opined that adopting “Rebuild One’s Life” as the key approach to handling the issue of homeless people was a good start, but there were various complicated social problems behind such an issue. As such, he enquired of the departments about the measures to assist the homeless people, and urged the SWD for an explanation as to how the homeless people who refused assistance could be supported (Mr TSE Man-chak);
- (3) considering that there were many homeless people staying at the footbridges in Tsuen Wan district, he was grateful to Members for their contributions made for the homeless people. He understood that homeless people chose to sleep on the streets because of various reasons. He agreed with the view that efforts should be made to identify resources in order to provide short-term accommodation for homeless people. In addition, taking into account the relatively remote location of Lei Muk Shue Community Hall, he hoped that the HAD would reconsider using Princess Alexandra Community Centre as a temporary night heat shelter so that homeless people could have a place to rest under very hot weather (Mr PUN Long-chung, Roy);
- (4) since last year, Members had been voicing concern over the issue of homeless people, and had paid visits and provided assistance to them from time to time. He had received information in January 2021 indicating that some of the homeless people in Tsuen Wan district were requested to move away from the streets where they had been staying on.

Although they were not forced to leave the locations concerned in the end, he found out recently that two homeless people staying at another place had moved away. As he did not receive any news about the clearance operation, he could not contact the two homeless people and continue to provide support. He regretted this situation and hoped that the departments would squarely address the issue in question and prevent recurrence (Mr LAM Sek-tim);

- (5) he pointed out that there were no homeless people in his constituency area in the past. However, under the epidemic and since the implementation of the prohibition on group gathering, the number of homeless people in Tsuen Wan district had been on the rise, and some people started to sleep on the streets in his constituency area. He opined that the SWD should allocate additional resources and manpower to learn about the situations of these people and render assistance (Mr LAI Man-fai);
- (6) he had visited many homeless people and learnt that each of them had a different background and faced different problems. He suggested that Tsuen Wan district should draw reference from Yau Tsim Mong district by setting up a shelter for street sleepers or providing temporary accommodation for homeless people using the units in old buildings. In addition, he had worked with community groups to arrange for food distribution to homeless people. In this connection, he suggested initiating contact with bread suppliers to seek their permission for collecting unsold bread by volunteers every day, which would then be passed on to the District Councillors of various constituency areas for distribution. However, since this type of work involved a substantial amount of resources, he hoped that the SWD would assign dedicated staff for implementing the above suggestion (Mr LAU Chi-hung); and
- (7) every homeless person had his/her own story. He opined that the Government had not made an all-out effort to handle the respective problems that homeless people were facing at present, and should allocate additional dedicated manpower over the territory in this regard. Additionally, as the homeless people could not afford the rent of residential premises in Hong Kong on their income or the comprehensive social security assistance, he held that the Government should introduce an exclusive housing allowance for them. Lastly, he opined that the Government should follow the practice of the NGOs by actively deploying additional social workers for provision of overnight outreaching services so as to reach out to and take care of the homeless people. Incidentally, the Government should introduce measures and counselling services to address the needs of the homeless people in a comprehensive manner (Mr CHAN Yuen-sum, Sumly).

21. DDLM(TW)DS of the LCSD responded as follows:

- (1) the LCSD was responsible for providing quality recreation and sports facilities and programmes to the public;

- (2) there were four holiday camps under the LCSD available for rental by the public, namely Lei Yue Mun Park, Lady MacLehose Holiday Village, Sai Kung Outdoor Recreation Centre and Tso Kung Tam Outdoor Recreation Centre; and
- (3) relevant departments or organisations which wished to organise activities in the holiday camps were welcome to make enquiries to the LCSD. The LCSD was willing to actively support such activities by leasing out the venues.

22. ADSWO (TW/KwT)3 of the SWD responded as follows:

- (1) the SWD had all along been dedicated to assisting the street sleepers and other people in need. As every street sleeper had his/her own background and individual welfare needs, social workers had to spend a relatively long time to establish trust and working relationships with the street sleepers and encourage them to accept the support services available in the community;
- (2) in order to address the welfare needs of the street sleepers, the SWD provided subsidies to three NGOs to operate an Integrated Services Team for Street Sleepers (IST) each and provide street sleepers with appropriate welfare services. These services included day and late-night outreach visits, emergency shelter or short-term accommodation, employment support, personal care, aftercare services and service referrals, etc. The services in Tsuen Wan district were provided by the Christian Concern for the Homeless Association. Members were welcome to further explore how to assist the street sleepers in Tsuen Wan district with the SWD or relevant organisations;
- (3) to enhance the existing welfare support services provided to the street sleepers, the SWD had allocated additional resources in October 2020 to strengthening the professional and supervisory support provided to the ISTs and Care and Support Networking Team, which were currently subsidised by the SWD. The department had also provided an addition of six subsidised quotas of short-term accommodation for male street sleepers in March 2021. The additional resources given to each IST included one Social Work Officer, one Assistant Social Work Officer, one registered nurse (psychiatric), one vehicle driver, funds for group activities and programmes, and recurrent expenditure required for flea control measures and outreach vehicles. The SWD would continue to keep a close eye on the services required by the street sleepers in order to address their needs; and
- (4) the SWD provided temporary shelters and urban hostels for single persons as short-term accommodation for the persons in need and street sleepers. It also assisted these people in looking for long-term residences and addressed their welfare needs through counselling and consultation. At present, there were no such shelters or hostels in Tsuen Wan district. The SWD noted Members' wish for provision of these kinds of shelters and hostels in Tsuen Wan district.

23. SLO(2) of the TWDO responded as follows:
- (1) every homeless person had his/her own background and reasons for sleeping on the streets. To solve the problems they were encountering, cooperation and coordination between various departments were necessary. The TWDO would dovetail its work with the outreach visits and support services coordinated by the SWD. If the TWDO came across with a rather complicated case that required assistance from several government departments, it would liaise and coordinate with the departments to facilitate cooperation and handling of such a case;
 - (2) the HAD would open temporary night heat shelters or temporary cold shelters in all districts when the Hong Kong Observatory issued the very hot or cold weather warning so as to provide temporary shelters and services to the persons in need; and
 - (3) the TWDO had conveyed Members' views on the site selection of the temporary night heat shelter in Tsuen Wan district to the HAD.
24. The views and enquiries of Members were summarised as follows:
- (1) in his opinion, the SWD and other government departments should rather focus on assisting the homeless people to solve the problems that they had in their lives. This was much more important than providing short-term accommodation for them (Mr CHIU Yan-loy); and
 - (2) he thought that this issue was also related to the Labour Department (LD). Besides, managerial staff of guesthouses had expressed to him their concern over the possible hygiene problems in guesthouses caused by the homeless people. Also, there might not be sufficient storage space within the guesthouses to accommodate the personal belongings of the homeless people. Nevertheless, he believed that the hostels and guesthouses were willing to arrange accommodation for the homeless people as long as they paid attention to the cleanliness and hygiene issues. At present, some guesthouses in Hong Kong had been receiving homeless people, enabling them to have a sound sleep in bed and a taste of home. Such an arrangement could also enhance the homeless people's willingness to accept support from social workers. He appreciated the LCSD being open to cooperating with other departments to organise activities in the holiday camps. He remarked that the departments could organise a multi-day camp to allow the homeless people to communicate with the departments through such sessions as sharing activities, employment discussion and counselling, with a view to helping them to develop confidence and become self-reliant in a gradual manner (Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio).
25. The Chairman said that Members could liaise with the SWD to arrange for visits and other activities jointly conducted with the service organisations serving the street sleepers in Tsuen Wan district. In addition, the SSCDC would write to the Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB) to convey Members' request for provision of short-

term accommodation for street sleepers in Tsuen Wan district.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat conveyed Members' views to the LWB in writing on 5 August 2021.)

VII Item 6: Strengthening Support Services for Ethnic Minorities in the District
(SSCDC Paper No. 9/21-22)

26. The Chairman said that Mr LAM Sek-tim submitted the paper. The representatives from the government departments responsible for giving response were:

- (1) Ms LUI Ka-wing, ADSWO (TW/KwT)3, SWD;
- (2) Ms LEE Lai-kiu, Winnie, SLO(2), TWDO; and
- (3) Ms CHAN Sik-yan, DDLM(TW)DS, LCSD.

Besides, the written reply of the LD was submitted before the meeting for Members' perusal.

27. Mr LAM Sek-tim introduced the paper.

28. The views and enquiries of Members were summarised as follows:

- (1) he agreed with the views on strengthening the support services for ethnic minorities (EMs) in Tsuen Wan district mentioned in the paper. He had attended the TWDC-funded activity "Ethnic Minority Services", in which the tutors provided homework guidance services for the EM children face-to-face or through video conferencing. In his opinion, EM children were members of Tsuen Wan district as well as of Hong Kong and the relevant government departments should allocate additional resources to support them (Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio);
- (2) in his opinion, the learning of Cantonese and Chinese was extremely important to the EMs. The lack of language education would limit their options for jobs and occupations. Thus, he hoped that such government departments as the TWDO, SWD and Education Bureau (EDB) would strengthen their support for EMs and consider liaising with the Vocational Training Council to provide targeted training programmes on professional skills. Additionally, government departments could consider allocating additional resources to the NGOs so that more activities on social integration could be organised and the EMs could thus have more opportunities to engage with members in the district (Mr CHAN Yuen-sum, Sumly);
- (3) she agreed with the view that the Government should promote the employment of and vocational training for EMs as mentioned in the paper. She believed that language barriers would make it difficult for the EMs to realise their potential in employment. In addition, she opined that the LCSD could organise more intercultural activities on racial harmony so as to provide more opportunities for the EM groups to integrate into the community. At the same time, she hoped that the departments would make greater use of various EM languages in the design of websites and production of publicity materials (the Vice

- Chairman);
- (4) he enquired of the SWD and TWDO about the current number of EMs accepting welfare services in Tsuen Wan district and the amount of resources that relevant departments had devoted to assisting the EMs (Mr LAU Cheuk-yu);
 - (5) the EM children that he had been in touch with did not speak fluent Cantonese and English. In his opinion, cooperation between various departments was necessary for the Chinese language education. He suggested that the Chinese characters should be changed into pinyin to facilitate education. Emphasis should also be placed on exploring ways to enable EMs to utilise their talents and showcase their cultural characteristics (Mr LAU Chi-hung);
 - (6) he felt helpless against some of the EMs in the district who refused to communicate in Cantonese intentionally. Yet, according to his observation, many EMs had visited the ward offices proactively and expressed their eagerness to learn Cantonese. Incidentally, as EMs were unfamiliar with Cantonese, they were prone to being incited or used by illegal organisations. Such being the case, government departments should consider ways of providing EMs with education and training so as to assist them in integrating into the community (Mr LAM Sek-tim); and
 - (7) he opined that besides providing lump sum grant to the NGOs, the Government should allocate additional resources to assist the EMs. As far as he knew, more than 70% of the NGOs in Tsuen Wan district had employed South Asians to undertake the district support work. In addition, he enquired whether the EDB had provided support to the EM children studying in the mainstream schools in Hong Kong. He held that ancillary measures on education were of vital importance to the EMs (the Chairman).

(Note: Mr MAN Yu-ming left the meeting at 3:44 p.m.)

29. ADSWO (TW/KwT)3 of the SWD responded as follows:
- (1) the SWD had all along been concerned about the welfare service needs from EMs. Since March 2020, the SWD had commissioned NGOs to set up a total of three outreaching teams for ethnic minorities (OTEMs) in Hong Kong, Kowloon and the New Territories so as to proactively reach out to and identify EMs who were in need and assist them in connecting with mainstream welfare services through outreaching visits. The EMs would be provided with case counselling, group work services and activities to satisfy their social and welfare needs;
 - (2) each OTEM was required to employ at least three ethnic minority staff who could speak EM languages as well as English or Cantonese so as to facilitate the communication between local social workers and EMs for learning about their needs, hence appropriate support could be offered;
 - (3) the OTEM serving Tsuen Wan district was Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui

Outreaching Team for Multi-Cultural Community. The OTEM concerned would travel in a goods vehicle of 5.5 tonnes to the relatively remote EM communities for promotion of services, with a view to providing services more effectively to the EMs who were in need and enabling them to participate in various activities and enjoy welfare services together with local residents;

- (4) if EMs were in need of interpretation services when using the welfare or consultation service, staff could arrange such services for them free of charge. The interpretation services covered languages including Bahasa Indonesia, Tagalog, Thai, Hindi, Nepali, Punjabi, Urdu and Vietnamese; and
- (5) the SWD did not maintain any data on the number of EMs receiving the services in Tsuen Wan district.

30. SLO(2) of the TWDO responded as follows:

- (1) government departments had all along been providing appropriate support services for EMs according to their respective policy areas. The HAD would adopt various measures to assist EMs in integrating into the community, such as enhancing the interpretation services for EM languages to facilitate the use of public services by EMs, establishing support service centres dedicated to new arrivals from the Mainland and EMs, organising district-based activities for fostering social integration and promoting multicultural programmes;
- (2) the TWDO understood that cultural differences and language barriers would present EMs with difficulties in integrating into the community. Thus, the TWDO would provide support services using its district network, including granting funding to NGOs for the operation of support service centres for EMs, organising regular language learning classes, induction programmes and integration activities, and providing counselling and referral services. The Hong Kong Community Network LINK Centre in Kwai Tsing district provided support services for the EMs in Tsuen Wan district and Kwai Tsing district;
- (3) other support services included community support groups and an ambassador programme targeting EM families and youths. People who shared similar backgrounds and experiences with the service targets would assume the role of ambassador in the programme. These ambassadors would reach out to the service targets and introduce suitable public services and activities to them. They would also assist in referring cases to relevant departments for follow-up when necessary;
- (4) the HAD had also launched a district-based community programme, in which NGOs were commissioned to organise induction programmes, volunteering programmes and visits, so as to build mutual help networks;
- (5) regarding the dissemination of information, the HAD subsidised radio programmes for provision of local news, government information as well as cultural and entertainment information in various EM languages, and prepared a guide to the services provided by government

departments in English and six EM languages. Additionally, the HAD had set up a dedicated webpage introducing its support services;

- (6) in fostering racial harmony and personal development, the HAD launched language classes, homework guidance classes, mentorship programmes and cross-cultural learning youth programmes. In addition, it provided language courses on the theme of daily communication and language-related funding schemes for EM adults; and
- (7) the TWDO noted Members' views on the provision of technical, social and language trainings for EMs, and would convey such views to the subject officers.

31. DDLM(TW)DS of the LCSD responded as follows:

- (1) members of the public were welcome to participate in the sports and cultural activities promoted by the LCSD;
- (2) the LCSD would organise sports activities that were popular among EMs in Tsuen Wan district. For example, the Cricket Fun Day would be organised for five times this year to attract EMs for participation and assist with their integration into the community;
- (3) the views on organising activities on cultural exchange between different races would be relayed to the Cultural Services Branch of the LCSD for reference; and
- (4) the education and employment support services mentioned in the paper were outside the LCSD's scope of work. Nevertheless, if the departments concerned wished to organise relevant activities in Tsuen Wan district, the LCSD was willing to act accordingly in respect of venue support.

32. Senior School Development Officer (Tsuen Wan)¹ of the EDB responded as follows:

- (1) the EDB assisted non-Chinese speaking (NCS) students (to facilitate the planning of education support measures, students whose spoken language at home was not Chinese were categorised as NCS students), especially those of different races, in integrating into society, such as helping them to accustom themselves to the local education system and learn Chinese as early as possible. Members could refer to the information on the education services for NCS students shown on the EDB's thematic website. Such information had been translated into different languages to facilitate accessibility by the parents of the NCS students; and
- (2) the EDB would provide additional resources according to the number of intake of NCS students in each school. Such schools could flexibly allocate the funding and address the needs of the NCS students according to their respective conditions.

33. The Chairman requested the EDB to provide Members with supplementary

information after the meeting to brief them on the details of the education support measures that it provided for the NCS students. Besides, he hoped that the SWD and TWDO could invite and arrange Members for participation in the support service activities organised for EMs by the NGOs in Tsuen Wan district in the future. Additionally, the SSCDC would write to the HAD to request the department to increase the use of different EM languages in promoting the support services dedicated to the EMs.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat conveyed Members' views to the HAD in writing on 5 August 2021.)

VIII Item 7: Request for an Improvement to the Outfits of Frontline Cleaners Working under Very Hot Weather
(SSCDC Paper No. 8/21-22)

34. The Chairman said that Mr PUN Long-chung, Roy submitted the paper. The representative from the government department responsible for giving response was Mr CHOI Wai-wing, Senior Health Inspector (Cleansing & Pest Control) Tsuen Wan 1 (SHI(C&PC)TW1), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD). Besides, the written reply of the LD was submitted prior to the meeting for Members' perusal.

35. Mr PUN Long-chung, Roy introduced the paper.

36. The views and enquiries of Members were summarised as follows:

- (1) he thought that cleaners should be provided with more resources and supporting measures as they shouldered the responsibility for cleansing Hong Kong. He enquired of the FEHD whether it would cooperate with the research institutes to design a uniform suitable for cleaners to wear when working outdoors if the outfits of frontline cleaners were not standardised at present (Mr TSE Man-chak);
- (2) he would come into contact with the FEHD's outsourced cleaners from time to time. They had relayed to him the extreme hardship they experienced when working under very hot weather, and were aware that the FEHD had switched to another cleansing contractor in May 2021. Besides, he agreed that a uniform with the function of light reflection and high breathability should be provided for frontline cleaners to ensure their safety and health when working under very hot weather (Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio);
- (3) according to his observations, cleaners under the FEHD and outsourced contractor had all along been dressed in uniform made of relatively thick materials. They were also required to put on plastic reflective clothing, which made them feel uncomfortable during outdoor work. He pointed out that the current uniform of certain cleaners was able to reflect lights, and suggested that the FEHD should distribute this type of uniform to the cleaners responsible for sweeping the roads. This could not only relieve the discomfort and stuffiness that cleaners suffered from when wearing the current uniform, but could also prevent accidents when they

- were sweeping the roads (Mr CHIU Yan-loy);
- (4) she pointed out that the blue uniform worn by the cleaners was non-breathable and the plastic reflective clothing caused them to feel stuffy at work. As the FEHD's outsourced contractor would not provide additional equipment, cleaners had to prepare their own straw hats and other items for sun protection. Thus, she opined that government departments should allocate additional resources to provide equipment that could facilitate heat dissipation for the cleaners. Additionally, she enquired about the progress of the development and design of a new uniform jointly conducted by the FEHD and local research institutes and the implementation timetable. She also enquired whether the FEHD would regularly review the uniforms of the cleaners and their working arrangements with the contractors. Incidentally, she agreed with the Member's views that the FEHD should provide a standardised uniform and tools to the outsourced contractors (the Vice Chairman);
 - (5) he opined that the materials of clothing would largely affect the wearers' feelings, and hoped that the FEHD would expedite its work in designing a new uniform for cleaners with the help of scientific researches and technologies. He also agreed with Members' views that the FEHD should standardise all the uniforms and adopt a new design which was capable of dissipating heat and reflecting lights. In addition, he thought that government departments should redouble their efforts in soliciting various sectors to pay attention to the materials of the clothing worn by outdoor workers under very hot weather (Mr LAU Chi-hung);
 - (6) he pointed out that in Tsuen Wan district, only the FEHD's cleaners were required to wear uniform. Cleaners under private organisations did not have to follow such regulations. Recently, some of the cleaners were even naked from the waist up whilst at work because of the very hot weather. In addition, he had organised activities relating to the cleansing of streets in Tsuen Wan town centre, which many Members had participated in and supported. In his opinion, given its air-permeability and breathability, the material used for jerseys was a suitable material for the uniform of the cleaners. In addition, the uniform should be waterproof to prevent polluted water and sweat from causing skin irritation to the cleaners (Mr LAM Sek-tim);
 - (7) he pointed out that the long-sleeved clothing worn by hikers was made from quick-drying fabrics and could block sunlight effectively. At present, construction workers had been wearing uniforms made of breathable and reflective materials. He had also ordered custom clothes of similar materials for district activities, and found that their costs were not very high. In this connection, he enquired of the FEHD how much more time was needed in order to complete the scientific research work on the uniform of cleaners. He suggested that the FEHD should remove the buttons on the uniform and adopt a round-necked design. In addition, he enquired of the FEHD when the cleansing contractor of Tsuen Wan district would be changed, and reminded

- Members to relay opinions to the FEHD if they once again found the uniform of the FEHD's cleaners undesirable (the Chairman); and
- (8) considering that the cleaners working in some of the villages of Tsuen Wan district might still be wearing outdated uniforms, he hoped that the FEHD would step up its monitoring of such a situation. In addition, he enquired whether the FEHD could provide Members with briefing notes on the new uniform, and whether it had designed different types of uniforms for cleaners responsible for different types of work (Mr PUN Long-chung, Roy).

(Note: Mr TSE Man-chak left the meeting at 3:58 p.m. Mr LAU Jackson left the meeting at 4:06 p.m.)

37. SHI(C&PC)TW1 of the FEHD responded as follows:
 - (1) the FEHD understood the hardship that cleaners endured when working under very hot weather, but it was necessary for the FEHD to request the cleaners to wear a reflective uniform because it could enable motorists to clearly identify the locations of the cleaners sweeping by the roadside and thus prevent accidents;
 - (2) the FEHD had liaised with local academic institutions in 2019 to develop and design a new uniform with high breathability as well as the functions of moisture management and light reflection. The street cleansing service contract for Tsuen Wan district had been renewed in May 2021, with the adoption of the new uniform. The initial responses from the cleaners were positive. They opined that the new uniform was more comfortable than the previous one. Currently, cleaners under the street cleansing service contract for several districts had been wearing the new uniform. The adoption of the new uniform had been gradually extended to all the districts in Hong Kong. Cleaners working in such districts would also wear the new uniform by then;
 - (3) he believed that the cleaning groups had established their respective labour associations, which would convey to the FEHD the demands in relation to work and welfare on a regular basis;
 - (4) the FEHD would continue to communicate with the cleansing contractors and frontline cleaners, and relay to the Headquarters the Members' views on enhancing the design of the uniform. Members were welcome to put forth other improvement measures; and
 - (5) if cleaners of the contractors were found not to be neatly dressed in uniform at work, the FEHD would issue default notices to the contractors.
38. The Chairman asked Members to follow up the abovementioned problems with the FEHD after the meeting.

IX Item 8: Information Papers

39. Members noted the contents of the following information papers:
 - (1) Items Endorsed by Circulation by the Social Services and Community

- Development Committee during the Period from 16 April to 9 June 2021 (SSCDC Paper No. 11/21-22); and
- (2) Financial Statement of Social Services and Community Development Committee Funds as at 2 June 2021 (SSCDC Paper No. 12/21-22).

X Item 9: Any Other Business

(A) Date of Next Meeting

40. The Chairman reminded Members that the next meeting was scheduled for 20 August 2021 and the deadline for submission of papers was 12 August 2021.

(Post-meeting note: The 10th meeting of the SSCDC was rescheduled for 30 June 2022.)

XI Adjournment of Meeting

41. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:16 p.m.

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat
2 July 2021