

(Translation)

Minutes of the 8th Meeting of Tsuen Wan District Council (5/24-25)

Date: 22 January 2025

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Venue: Main Conference Room, Tsuen Wan District Office

Present:

Chairman

Mr AU Ka-shing, Billy, JP (District Officer (Tsuen Wan), Tsuen Wan District Office)

Members

Ms WONG Shuk-fan, Luparker

Mr KOO Yeung-pong, MH

Mr NG Chun-yu

Mr CHU Tak-wing, MH

Ms LAM Yuen-pun

Mr CHOW Sum-ming

Mr YAU Kam-ping, BBS, MH

Ms CHEUNG Man-ka

Dr LEUNG Cheong-ming, Raymond, MH, JP

Mr CHAN Chun-chung

Ms CHAN Shun-shun

Mr CHAN Sung-ip, BBS, MH

Mr MOK Yuen-kwan

Mr CHAN Hiu-chun, MH

Mr TSANG Tai

Mr FUNG Cheuk-sum

Ms WAH Mei-ling

Mr WONG Wai-kit, MH

Mr WONG Kai-chun

Mr KOT Siu-yuen, MH

Mr LAU Chung-kong

Mr CHENG Chit-pun

Government Representatives

Ms TAM Wing-sze, Winnie

Assistant District Officer (Tsuen Wan) (Acting), Tsuen Wan District Office

Mr HO Kwok-yan, Philip

Senior Liaison Officer (2), Tsuen Wan District Office

Mr YUNG Ho-wai, Anthony

Senior Liaison Officer (3), Tsuen Wan District Office

Mr KWONG Chi-wing, Denis

Senior Executive Officer (District Management), Tsuen Wan District Office

Mr LAW Ka-hong, Alex	District Commander (Tsuen Wan), Hong Kong Police Force
Ms TSE Yuen-yue	Police Community Relations Officer (Tsuen Wan) (Acting), Hong Kong Police Force
Ms WONG Siu-fan, Phoebe	District Social Welfare Officer (Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing), Social Welfare Department
Ms LOU Yin-yee, Joanne	District Lands Officer/Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing (District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing), Lands Department
Ms LAM Hang-ling, Sara	Administrative Assistant/Lands (District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing), Lands Department
Mr MOK Ka-sing, Mark	Chief Transport Officer/New Territories South West, Transport Department
Ms LAW Chi-ping, Iris	Chief Manager/Management (Wong Tai Sin, Tsing Yi and Tsuen Wan), Housing Department
Mr LEUNG Yu-sun	Senior Housing Manager/Wong Tai Sin, Tsing Yi and Tsuen Wan 2, Housing Department
Mr NG Kwok-lun, Wilson	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Tsuen Wan), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr NG Kwok-suen, Carl	Senior Engineer/10 (West), Civil Engineering and Development Department
Ms LIM Ting-ting, Sylvia	Chief Leisure Manager (New Territories West), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms NG Kam-yim	District Leisure Manager (Tsuen Wan), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr LIM Kuen (Secretary)	Senior Executive Officer (District Council), Tsuen Wan District Office
Miss LEUNG Tsz-wai, Apple	Executive Officer I (District Council), Tsuen Wan District Office

In Attendance:

For discussion of item 3

Miss CHAN Pui-ying	Chief School Development Officer (Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing), Education Bureau
Ms CHAN Sui-wun, Wendy	Senior School Development Officer (Tsuen Wan) 1, Education Bureau
Mr CHAN Pak-woon	Senior School Development Officer (Tsuen Wan) 2, Education Bureau

For discussion of item 4

Mr TAM Wai-ho	Engineer/New Territories West (Distribution 1), Water Supplies Department
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Mr LAM Ping-wah	Project Coordinator/Design 24, Water Supplies Department
Ms LEUNG Wai-man	Senior Resident Engineer, Water Supplies Department

For discussion of item 6

Ms CHEONG Chi-kun	Senior District Engineer/South West, Highways Department
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Action

I Opening Remarks and Introduction

The Chairman welcomed Members and representatives from government departments to the 8th meeting of the Tsuen Wan District Council (TWDC) and introduced:

- (1) Ms LAW Chi-ping, Iris who attended a meeting of the TWDC for the first time and replaced Mrs LAI CHAN Wai-fan, Clara to assume the post of Chief Manager/Management (Wong Tai Sin, Tsing Yi and Tsuen Wan) (CM/M(WT&T)), Housing Department (HD);
- (2) Mr NG Kwok-suen, Carl, Senior Engineer/10 (West), Civil Engineering and Development Department, who attended this meeting on behalf of Mr HO Kai-ho, Stanley; and
- (3) Ms TSE Yuen-yue, Police Community Relations Officer (Tsuen Wan) (Acting) (PCRO(TW) (Atg.)), Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF), who attended this meeting on behalf of Mr CHAN Hok-chun, Clement.

2. The Chairman stated that according to the requirements stipulated in the Tsuen Wan District Council Standing Orders (the “Standing Orders”), if a District Council (DC) Member found that he/she had any direct personal or pecuniary interests in a discussion item or relevant matters when attending a meeting of the Council or dealing with matters related to the Council, the DC Member should declare the interests. The Secretariat had not received any declaration of interests prior to the meeting. The Chairman enquired whether Members had to make declarations of interests immediately. No Member made a declaration of interests immediately.

3. The Chairman stated that Members could speak once and make supplementary remarks once on each agenda item at the meeting. Each Member could speak up to two minutes in the first round of speeches and up to one minute in the second round of speeches.

II Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes of the 7th Meeting held on 26.11.2024

4. The Chairman stated that the Secretariat had not received any proposed amendments prior to the meeting. The Chairman enquired whether Members had to put forth proposed amendments immediately. No Member put forth a proposed amendment immediately. Members unanimously endorsed the minutes.

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

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

6. The Chairman stated that at the previous meeting, a Member had made a recommendation to the HD on the establishment of a mechanism for conducting regular meetings. He asked the HD to brief Members on the latest progress of the said matter.

7. CM/M(WT&T) of the HD responded that the HD's representative had conveyed the Member's views to the relevant section of the HD for its consideration and follow-up. The section was drawing up standardised arrangements for conducting regular meetings with DC Members in the future. These arrangements would be adopted across all districts in the territory. The HD would arrange timely meetings for discussion on individual matters of concern to Members, if they saw the necessity to contact the HD's staff for such matters prior to the adoption of the arrangements concerned.

IV Item 3: Impact of the Reduction in the Number of Students in Tsuen Wan District on Local Kindergartens, Primary and Secondary Schools
(TWDC Paper No. 24/24-25)

8. The Chairman stated that Ms WONG Shuk-fan, Luparker submitted the paper. The representatives from the bureau responsible for giving responses were:

- (1) Miss CHAN Pui-ying, Chief School Development Officer (Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing) (CSDO(TW&KT)), Education Bureau (EDB);
- (2) Ms CHAN Sui-wun, Wendy, Senior School Development Officer (Tsuen Wan) 1, EDB; and
- (3) Mr CHAN Pak-woon, Senior School Development Officer (Tsuen Wan) 2, EDB.

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

9. Ms WONG Shuk-fan, Luparker introduced the paper.

10. CSDO(TW&KT) of the EDB responded as follows:

- (1) there was a structural decline in the school-age population at present. The EDB had been continuously monitoring the challenges arising from such a decline, as well as encouraging and supporting School Sponsoring Bodies (SSBs) and schools to take preventive measures and plan ahead of time. All along, the sector had been endeavoured to promote the sustainable development of schools in order to create a favourable teaching and learning environment for students. While considering the long-term development of education and the interests

of the community at large, the EDB had always put the well-being of students as its top priority. It would also holistically take into account the conditions of the districts and schools as well as the population profile, and would aim for a “soft landing” with a view to catering for the changes in the demand and supply of school places. The EDB had been meeting various SSBs, reminding them to plan and formulate long-term development directions which were most suitable for their schools as early as possible. The Tsuen Wan District School Development Section would offer appropriate advice and support to schools on their planning in response to demographic changes through, for example, meetings with principals of local schools, daily interactions and school visits. The specific policies and measures had been detailed in the EDB’s written reply;

- (2) all kindergartens in Hong Kong were privately run with great adaptability and diversity. They were flexible in operation, and could swiftly respond to social changes and parental needs. Every year, there might be newly registered kindergartens or some would decide to cease operation having regard to a combination of factors. The EDB currently offered various subsidies to kindergartens and formulated specific policies to enhance the quality of kindergarten education;
- (3) the number of Primary One places allocated in 2023 had been set out in the Report on Primary One Admission 2023. A total of 1 799 school children in Primary One Admission (POA) School Net 62 had been allocated Primary One places of public sector schools. The Report on Primary One Admission 2024 would be released in March 2025; and
- (4) a total of 73 Primary One classes were operated by schools in Tsuen Wan district in the 2023/24 school year. The EDB was compiling the figures of the 2024/25 school year.

11. Ms WONG Shuk-fan, Luparker said that schools were required to annually submit to the EDB the numbers of students admitted through the allocation of discretionary places and the central allocation as well as the projected number of students. She recommended the EDB to disclose the figures concerned so that the education sector could learn about the enrolment situation and make preparations accordingly.

12. Mr NG Chun-yu said that quite a number of new arrivals from the grassroots lived in sub-divided flats in the old area of Tsuen Wan. He noticed that newly-arrived children would receive help from the EDB for primary school admission, whereas those who were older would have to approach secondary schools to enquire about the admission details on their own. Being in an unfamiliar place, they would often encounter difficulties. He thus suggested that the EDB should provide more support for these students. For example, the EDB should supply them

with information on the secondary schools in Tsuen Wan district and the number of unfilled school places.

13. CSDO(TW&KT) of the EDB responded as follows:

- (1) the numbers of students admitted through the allocation of discretionary places and the central allocation had already been set out in the Report on Primary One Admission 2023. The EDB would not discuss the situation of individual schools at this meeting. The decline in the school-age population was a structural issue. The EDB noted that according to their respective conditions, schools had generally conducted planning to prepare themselves for situations which might arise in the future. The EDB would closely monitor the enrolment situation of schools, maintain close communication with schools and offer appropriate support and advice to them; and
- (2) under the existing legislation, it was compulsory for children aged between 6 and 15 to attend school. The EDB would provide placement assistance services for all children aged 6 to 15 who were eligible to enrol in public sector schools, including eligible newly-arrived children. If school children encountered difficulties while looking for school places, they could visit the Regional Education Offices of the EDB for assistance. The EDB would provide a list of schools with unfilled places to them. Besides, the lists of public sector schools in various districts had already been set out in the School Profiles. Parents could also approach their preferred schools to apply for school places. If Members received assistance-seeking cases, they could refer the cases to the EDB. The EDB would offer assistance accordingly.

14. Mr CHU Tak-wing said that the Government had recently launched the Newborn Baby Bonus scheme. The Government would provide a one-off cash allowance of \$20,000 as financial incentive to eligible parents for each baby born on or after 25 October 2023 in Hong Kong. In his opinion, this measure might encourage childbirth. He was worried that “school closure” would have negative impacts on the supply of primary school places in Tsuen Wan district and the overall operation of local schools in the future. He thus recommended the introduction of a flexible adjustment mechanism to enable the timely relaxation of the threshold for operating classes (i.e. the number of students allocated to each class), thereby alleviating the pressure on schools. Moreover, many children of individuals who came to Hong Kong under the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme (QMAS) in recent years had to attend secondary schools in the territory. Hence, there was a relatively tight supply of secondary school places in Tsuen Wan district. He suggested that the Government should formulate policies (e.g. offering tax exemptions or concessions) to encourage talents and their families (especially young children) to come to Hong

Kong early. He held that this approach could help solve the problem of under-enrolment of Primary One students.

15. Mr LAU Chung-kong enquired whether the EDB would take the initiative to contact families which came to Hong Kong under the QMAS and provide them with information and support on school admission.

16. CSDO(TW&KT) of the EDB responded as follows:

- (1) under the mechanism concerned, the provisional number of Primary One classes was calculated by dividing the number of outgoing Primary Six classes or the number of classrooms of a school by six (whichever was the greater, provided that there were sufficient classrooms). The objective of such calculation approach was to make good use of all classrooms to offer Primary One places for allocation, and to maintain the stability of class structure of the school. Under the existing mechanism, the EDB would annually discuss with schools their provisional numbers of Primary One classes while taking into account a variety of factors (including the supply and demand of school places in individual school nets, class structure of individual schools, utilisation of classrooms and so on). If individual schools intended to adjust their provisional numbers of Primary One classes in a POA cycle, the EDB would proactively consider such arrangements having regard to the school nets concerned and the situation of the schools;
- (2) the criterion for approving classes of primary schools was very lax at present. A school would be allowed to operate one class if it was allocated 23 students and two classes for 24 students (i.e. 12 students per class);
- (3) in order to attract school children for enrolment, the EDB had all along been encouraging schools to enhance publicity on their learning and teaching strengths; and
- (4) the EDB offered a range of online resources, including the School Profiles of kindergartens, primary schools and secondary schools. The School Profiles covered the school lists, school overviews, school characteristics and contact information of schools in all districts throughout Hong Kong. The EDB also provided new arrivals with relevant information (e.g. the introduction on the education system of Hong Kong and the detailed procedures for school admission), assisting them in the selection of schools suitable for their children.

17. Mr KOO Yeung-pong said he supported Members' suggestions that the EDB should make early planning to deal with the problem of declining births and discuss strategies with schools. He pointed out that there had also been a decline in the birth rate in the past, resulting in the regrettable closure of the historic Tsuen Wan Lutheran

School. In his opinion, early planning could prevent the recurrence of “school closure”. Moreover, while understanding that all parents wanted to enrol children in their preferred schools, he opined that the number of student intake should not vary enormously among schools. He also held that the class performance of students would be adversely affected if they had to attend school across districts.

18. Mr CHAN Hiu-chun opined that the persistently low birth rate of Hong Kong was the root cause of the reduction in the number of students in Tsuen Wan district. He held that the Government should encourage childbirth to address this problem at source. In his view, the publicity efforts made by the Government to encourage childbirth were insufficient at present. He suggested that the Government should enhance the publicity through various channels such as television advertisements.

19. CSDO(TW&KT) of the EDB responded as follows:

- (1) the EDB was proactively meeting SSBs, encouraging them to prepare for challenges arising from the structural decline in the school-age population by consolidating resources and aiming for a “soft landing”. The EDB was also expediting the implementation of small class teaching. All public sector primary schools in Tsuen Wan district had fully adopted small class teaching in the 2024/25 school year. On the other hand, the EDB should also respect parents for their school preferences; and
- (2) the decline in the school-age population was a structural problem. The Government had already rolled out multiple measures to encourage childbirth, including the Newborn Baby Bonus (a one-off cash allowance of \$20,000). On the other hand, the EDB would implement pragmatic and feasible proposals and measures. It would also stand by the sector to face challenges together, making every effort to enhance the teaching and learning quality as well as students’ well-being.

20. The Chairman said that Members noted the EDB’s responses. He also asked the EDB to follow up on Members’ views in a timely manner and continue to maintain liaison on educational matters with local stakeholders.

V Item 4: Concern about the Ageing of the Old Underground Water Mains in Tsuen Wan District

(TWDC Paper No. 25/24-25)

21. The Chairman stated that Mr KOO Yeung-pong, Mr NG Chun-yu, Mr WONG Kai-chun, Mr TSANG Tai, Mr CHAN Chun-chung, Mr LAU Chung-kong and Mr CHOW Sum-ming submitted the paper. The representatives from the department responsible for giving responses were:

- (1) Mr TAM Wai-ho, Engineer/New Territories West (Distribution 1)

(E/NTW(D1)), Water Supplies Department (WSD);

- (2) Mr LAM Ping-wah, Project Coordinator/Design 24, WSD; and
- (3) Ms LEUNG Wai-man, Senior Resident Engineer (SRE), WSD.

22. Mr NG Chun-yu introduced the paper. He enquired about the distribution of water mains which had been in use for over 20 years in Tsuen Wan district, and whether the WSD would expand the existing monitoring area of the Water Intelligent Network (WIN). In view of the frequent occurrence of water main burst incidents or the comparatively high risk of water main leakage at certain locations in the district, he enquired whether the WSD had a plan to replace water mains at those locations.

23. Mr CHOW Sum-ming said that three water main burst incidents had occurred on Yeung Uk Road within a year. One of those incidents had occurred at the junction of Yeung Uk Road and Chung On Street near Lung Wah Theatre, sending an over five-metre jet of water into the air. Also, there had been a number of water main leakage incidents at the junction of Yeung Uk Road and Wo Tik Street near Yeung Uk Road Market. The situation had warranted concern. He thus proposed designating Yeung Uk Road as a “main burst hotspot”. Besides, several water main burst incidents had also happened around Ho Pui Street. These incidents had caused the gradual erosion of soil under the road and thus road subsidence, posing danger to vehicles in motion. He enquired whether the WSD had adopted any technology to detect road subsidence with a view to forestalling accidents.

24. Mr WONG Kai-chun opined that water mains laid in the 1960s were mostly iron pipes which seldom leaked. Yet, if such a pipe burst due to wear and tear, a large-scale water main burst incident would ensue. Water main burst incidents had previously happened off Tsuen King Circuit, On Yuk Road and Tsuen King Garden, impacting the traffic heavily. He proposed that the WSD should promptly draw up a timetable for replacing old water mains. Moreover, a resident had conveyed to him that yellow or black-coloured water still came out of water mains even though the WSD’s replacement and rehabilitation of water mains had been completed for a period of time. He thus advised the WSD to pay attention to the issue of water quality.

25. Ms LAM Yuen-pun said that drinking water provided by certain restaurants without water filtration equipment would have a musty smell. She enquired whether this situation was caused by the accumulation of dirt inside old water mains.

26. Mr KOO Yeung-pong pointed out that a water main burst incident had recently happened on Hoi Shing Road near Clague Garden Estate. He enquired on the details of the replacement and rehabilitation works of water mains at the said location.

27. E/NTW(D1) of the WSD responded as follows:
- (1) the water mains managed by the WSD in Tsuen Wan district had a total length of about 396 kilometers, among which had been in use for over 20 years accounted for 229 kilometers in total length. The water supply area covered the entire Tsuen Wan district;
 - (2) when assessing the risk of leakage or burst of water mains, the WSD would not only consider the age of use of water mains but also other risk factors, including their materials, surrounding environment and past records of bursts or leaks. The WSD had implemented the Risk-based Improvement Programme of Water Mains (the “Programme”) to assess the risk of leakage of water mains and replace or rehabilitate specific sections of water mains with a higher risk of leakage;
 - (3) the WSD was constructing about 37 District Metering Areas (DMAs) of the WIN in Tsuen Wan district. As at the end of 2024, the WSD had completed the construction of 36 DMAs in the district. The WSD expected that the construction of the remaining DMA would be completed in the first quarter of 2025. The DMAs would commence operation after undergoing the WSD’s testing. Regarding the enquiry as to whether the WSD would expand the monitoring area of the WIN, the WSD would conduct a timely review after the 37 DMAs underwent testing and operated for a period of time. It would also consider whether to optimise or expand the monitoring area having regard to other factors, e.g. the cost-effectiveness, local traffic constraints and distribution of underground public utilities;
 - (4) the WSD had established a “main burst hotspot” mechanism. If more than one water main burst occurred within a 400-metre long road section in two years, the WSD will designate the location as a “main burst hotspot” and arrange for expedited replacement or rehabilitation of the water main concerned;
 - (5) the water main burst incident occurring at the junction of Yeung Uk Road and Chung On Street on 7 March 2024 had resulted from the breaking of a water main by a works contractor of a government department. As the water main burst was associated with an external factor, the WSD had not included this incident in the calculation of the total number of water main burst incidents;
 - (6) as far as the leakage of water mains at the junction of Yeung Uk Road and Wo Tik Street was concerned, the WSD had substantially completed the replacement works of water mains there. Hence, the WSD had no plan to designate Yeung Uk Road as a “main burst hotspot” for the time being;
 - (7) in view of the occurrence of several water main leakage incidents on Hoi Shing Road near Clague Garden Estate, the WSD had already

included the location in the Programme. Some of the water mains at the said location had already been replaced, and the risk of water main leakage there was relatively low. Hence, the WSD would carry out water main improvement works according to the urgency of incidents;

- (8) all along, the WSD had been regularly inspecting water mains in accordance with the regulations. For instance, it had been carrying out leakage detection through the adoption of visual inspection and acoustic investigation. If a water main fell within the monitoring area of the WIN, the WSD would monitor and adjust the water pressure in the water main accordingly. The WSD would also monitor whether there was an increase in the water flow or a decrease in the water pressure inside the water main in order to continuously monitor its leakage situation;
- (9) the WSD had not received any report on the water quality problem arising from the replacement of water mains as mentioned by the Member. He assumed that it was an isolated incident. If Members received a related report, they could refer it to the WSD's staff for follow-up; and
- (10) during the treatment process, the WSD would disinfect drinking water by adding chlorine. Also, the WSD's staff would regularly collect drinking water samples for testing to ensure drinking water safety. If drinking water flowed through private pipes within a private lot in the case mentioned by the Member, the issue concerned should be followed up by the owner of the lot.

28. SRE of the WSD responded as follows:

- (1) there were a total of two "main burst hotspots" in Tsuen Wan district. They were situated on Texaco Road and Sai Lau Kok Road respectively. The WSD was carrying out the replacement and rehabilitation works of water mains at these two hotspots;
- (2) the WSD had encountered various difficulties during the implementation of the works on Texaco Road. For example, the WSD had discovered that the said location was densely packed with underground public utilities. Besides, in order to commence the works and avoid traffic congestion at the same time, the WSD could only implement the temporary traffic management scheme on certain road sections of Texaco Road on Sundays. Moreover, given the relatively frequent movement of container trucks along Lung Tak Street, the WSD could only carry out the works at night. It had rehabilitated the water mains of part of the area concerned on Lung Tak Street at the current stage. The WSD anticipated that the water main connection works on Texaco Road near Wing Tak Street would commence at the end of 2025. Old pipes would be removed and

replaced with a view to minimising the risk of burst. The works at the remaining locations on Texaco Road, Lung Tak Street and Wing Tak Street were expected to be completed in 2027; and

- (3) the WSD had replaced most of the water mains on Sai Lau Kok Road. The replacement of water mains across Castle Peak Road on Shing Mun Road was the only outstanding works project at the moment. The said location was coupled with a heavy presence of underground public utilities (including water mains and gas pipes) and had a busy traffic flow. Hence, the WSD should adopt trenchless construction technology. It could only implement the works by closing roads from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with a view to minimising the impact of the works on the traffic and the public. The works were expected to be completed in the second quarter of 2026.

29. The Chairman stated that the WSD had all along been maintaining close communication with Members and immediately responding to urgent water main leakage or burst incidents in the district. He thanked the representatives from the WSD for attending this meeting. Members also noted the WSD's responses.

VI Item 5: Concern about the Ways for the Tsuen Wan Police District to Strengthen Inter-agency Co-operation in Combating Deception Cases
(TWDC Paper No. 26/24-25)

30. Ms LAM Yuen-pun, Mr WONG Kai-chun, Mr CHOW Sum-ming, Mr FUNG Cheuk-sum, Mr MOK Yuen-kwan, Mr CHENG Chit-pun and Ms WAH Mei-ling submitted the paper. The representatives from the department responsible for giving responses were:

- (1) Mr LAW Ka-hong, Alex, District Commander (Tsuen Wan) (DC(TW)), HKPF; and
- (2) Ms TSE Yuen-yue, PCRO(TW) (Atg.), HKPF.

31. Ms LAM Yuen-pun introduced the paper.

32. The Chairman believed that fraud prevention required co-operation and concerted efforts from various parties. At the invitation of the Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA), the Chairman of the TWDC had appointed three DC Members to be the District Anti-Phone Deception Ambassadors, namely Mr KOT Siu-yuen, Mr KOO Yeung-pong and Mr LAU Chung-kong. He expected that the three ambassadors would actively publicise and promote fraud prevention strategies and relevant information to residents in the district.

33. DC(TW) of the HKPF responded as follows:

- (1) the Anti-Deception Coordination Centre (ADCC) maintained close communication and liaison with the banking industry and overseas law

enforcement agencies. The 24-hour hotline “Anti-Scam Helpline 18222” would provide members of the public with immediate information to intercept fraudulent payments and minimise victims’ losses. To date, the “Anti-Scam Helpline 18222” had successfully intercepted 989 deception cases and HK\$1.29 billion of fraudulent payments in total. Since July 2023, the ADCC had directly handled requests to intercept fraudulent payments involving the Fast Payment System (FPS), in the hope of further expediting the interception of fraudulent payments;

- (2) upon receiving reports or requests for assistance from members of the public, the Tsuen Wan Police District (TWPD) would immediately take a series of actions. Firstly, the HKPF would obtain relevant information (such as the bank account and date of transaction, etc.) from the victim as soon as possible. The ADCC would then contact the bank concerned promptly to intercept the payment in the stooge account of the third party within the shortest possible time so as to minimise the loss of the victim. According to the legal requirements stipulated in the Organised and Serious Crimes Ordinance (Cap. 455), banks were duty bound to take actions to avoid assisting lawbreakers in utilising bank accounts for money laundering and fraudulent activities. Hence, the bank concerned would also conduct an internal analysis swiftly to investigate whether there were other suspicious payments in the account in question;
- (3) the ADCC had successfully intercepted 584 deception cases in 2023. It had also established the Intelligence and Scam Response Team, adopting an intelligence-led enforcement strategy to intercept and arrest fraudsters when they spend the money in bank accounts;
- (4) the captioned paper mentioned that some people had clicked on the hyperlinks provided by fraudsters, logged into the website and entered information of their credit cards. Upon receiving similar requests for assistance, the HKPF would notify the bank promptly and intercept the payment concerned as soon as possible. Since the situation concerned was similar to the steps an individual took when making an online purchase and directing money to a third party’s bank account, the HKPF faced certain difficulties in intercepting payment transactions between accounts. Therefore, the HKPF advised the public to avoid providing relevant information online with a view to preventing fraudsters from getting their way;
- (5) the number of deception cases in Tsuen Wan district accounted for approximately 51% of the overall crime figures. A total of 1 603 deception cases had been recorded in 2024, with the main categories including online purchase, telephone scams and phishing. The TWPD had arrested 177 persons for the offences of money

laundering and deception respectively, involving a total of 145 deception cases;

- (6) the TWPD had publicised information about the ADCC, “Anti-Scam Helpline 18222” and “Scameter” at public rental housing (PRH) estates, private housing estates, industrial buildings, as well as primary and secondary schools through various means, with a view to enhancing the public’s awareness of anti-deception. The HKPF also maintained liaison with banks and regularly organise anti-deception and anti-crime drills to educate staff of the relevant banks the ways to cope with suspected fraudsters and to assist the Police. The HKPF, together with Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited (BOCHK), had organised an anti-deception drill with the participation of over 80 members of the public in October 2024. Besides, the TWPD had designed a series of catchy anti-deception slogans, hoping to convey information on some of the more popular defrauding tricks to residents in Tsuen Wan district with a straightforward and easy-to-understand approach;
- (7) the TWPD had also conducted analysis of the deception cases occurred at PRH estates and industrial buildings. It would deploy manpower to carry out intensive publicity work at buildings with more victims of such cases, including distributing leaflets and souvenirs, promoting “Anti-Scam Helpline 18222” and assisting the elderly to install “Scameter+” on their smartphones, etc. The number of deception cases occurred at PRH estates and Home Ownership Scheme flats had notably dropped from 454 in July 2024 to 324 in September 2024, marking a decrease of 28%. Besides, the New Territories South Region of the HKPF had set up the “NTS • Project HomeSweetHome” in the hope of propagating anti-deception messages in the daily living environment of the general public;
- (8) the HKPF advised members of the public who were suspected of falling prey to scams to contact the staff of the ADCC and provide relevant information at once by calling the “Anti-Scam Helpline 18222”. If members of the public suspected that they had become victims of deception cases, the HKPF suggested that they should retain relevant records and report the incident to the police station as soon as possible, so that the Police and the bank involved could initiate a series of interception actions; and
- (9) the FPS was an electronic payment platform that facilitated instant payments by connecting different banks and stored-value facility operators. It was necessary for the victim to co-operate with the HKPF actively and provide the information of the bank account connected to the FPS so that the fraudulent payment could be intercepted more swiftly.

34. Mr MOK Yuen-kwan suggested enhancing the inter-agency co-operation on anti-deception. In addition to the Police and banks, other stakeholders also played an important role. Besides, the Real-name Registration Programme for Subscriber Identification Module (SIM) Cards had been fully implemented in Hong Kong since February 2023. He enquired whether telecommunications service providers and the Communications Authority could intercept fraudulent activities involving phone calls, short message service (SMS) texts or instant messaging applications (such as WhatsApp) at source.

35. Mr CHENG Chit-pun said that apart from conducting investigations and intercepting fraudulent payments, the Police could also preclude scams at source. He suggested that the telecommunications service providers should issue alerts for calls or suspicious SMS texts originating from newly registered phone numbers to remind users of local mobile services.

36. Ms LAM Yuen-pun pointed out that a victim whose credit card was used fraudulently had been to the bank to deactivate the credit card concerned after the incident. The victim was told by the bank staff that it was not necessary to contact the Police, hence the victim had not reported the case to the Police immediately. She enquired whether the Police would launch an investigation if the victim reported the case. She said that besides herself, other DC Members had received similar requests for assistance. She considered that the situation of credit cards being fraudulently used was quite rampant.

37. DC(TW) of the HKPF responded as follows:

- (1) the system of “Scameter” would perform a substantial amount of data analysis and issue alerts for phone numbers or websites that were either confirmed or suspected to be suspicious. Therefore, the Police encouraged the public to install the mobile application “Scameter+” on their mobile phones and enable three functions to authorise the application concerned to provide protection. When members of the public received suspicious calls or messages, they should pay attention to whether the phone number concerned was flagged as “high risk” in red colour. The HKPF advised the public to be aware of the risks of scams at all times and suggested that they should call the “Anti-Scam Helpline 18222” to contact the staff of the ADCC when necessary;
- (2) the OFCA had implemented the SMS Sender Registration Scheme. All companies or organisations who had registered to participate in the scheme would use “Registered SMS Senders IDs” with prefix “#” to send SMS texts to users of local mobile services, so as to assist members of the public in identifying the senders of the SMS texts; and
- (3) the HKPF advised individuals who suspected that they might have fallen victims to scams to report the case at the police station so that the

Police could investigate whether the payment request concerned was legitimate and legal. The Police would contact the bank at once to take appropriate actions and carefully scrutinise the bank account concerned in accordance with the law, with a view to investigating and intercepting all suspicious transactions in the bank account concerned.

38. Mr TSANG Tai thanked the Police for making dedicated efforts in preventing the occurrence of crimes in the community, including having the Police Community Relations Office of the TWPd to provide information and to distribute promotional materials to local residents, as well as providing small-sized banners on anti-deception for display in housing estates in the district.

39. Dr LEUNG Cheong-ming, Raymond said that deception was an issue plaguing members of the public across the territory. He enquired whether the same problem existed in regions outside Hong Kong (such as the Mainland or Southeast Asia) and asked about the approaches adopted by other regions in cracking down on deception.

40. DC(TW) of the HKPF responded as follows:

- (1) the TWPd thanked Members for their support and recognition of the Police's work. He opined that the anti-deception work required co-operation of various stakeholders such as DC Members, the District Services & Community Care Teams (the "Care Teams") and members of the public, etc. The HKPF would continue to make committed efforts in combating local crimes and enhancing public order in Tsuen Wan district;
- (2) given the technological advancement, online deception had become a global issue. Fraudsters would conduct fraudulent activities through different electronic media and online platforms;
- (3) the number of deception cases in Hong Kong was not high compared to other countries such as Singapore. However, the amount of money involved was higher when compared with that of Singapore, particularly with regards to investment fraud cases involving cryptocurrencies, rare metals and foreign currencies, which accounted for substantial portion of the total sums. Besides, there were cases where fraudsters committed fraud by utilising artificial intelligence technology to impersonate superiors or colleagues, in which the amount of money involved could be as high as tens of millions of dollars; and
- (4) the HKPF advised members of the public to remain calm when encountered scams and avoid providing fraudsters with passwords of bank accounts and information of credit cards. They could also call the "Anti-Scam Helpline 18222" to seek professional advice from the

staff of the ADCC.

41. The Chairman said that deception cases were very common at present. He believed that stakeholders such as the TWPD and DC Members would continue to make concerted efforts in further combating various types of deception cases.

VII Item 6: Follow-up on Tsuen Wan District's Work Progress on the District Issues Identified by the Steering Committee on District Governance
(TWDC Paper No. 27/24-25)

42. The Chairman said that the paper set out the work progress of following up on the seven key district issues identified by the Steering Committee on District Governance (SCDG) chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration in Tsuen Wan district. Besides, the SCDG had discussed at its third meeting the issue about “caring for the elderly and promoting digital inclusion” coordinated by the Digital Policy Office. It had also discussed and instructed relevant policy bureaux and departments at its fourth meeting to follow up on four district issues, including “improving lighting and ventilation, among others, at public transport interchanges to provide a more comfortable waiting environment for citizens”, “stepping up the cleaning of stains and moss on pedestrian walkways to continuously improve the city environment”, “strengthening patrols, law enforcement, publicity and education targeted at blackspots of air-conditioners dripping water from buildings this summer to ensure environmental hygiene” and “strengthening thematic plantings to enhance urban landscape aesthetics and attractiveness”. The TWDC would invite relevant departments to report on the progress of their work in regard to the newly added district issues in a timely manner.

43. Mr WONG Wai-kit said that regarding the issue about “caring for the elderly and enhancing community support”, the one-year period of the service scheme in which elders referred by the Caring Teams could use the emergency alarm system (EAS) for free was coming to an end. He enquired whether the scheme would be extended.

44. District Social Welfare Officer (TsuenWan/Kwai Tsing) of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) responded as follows:

- (1) as the trial runs of the District Services and Community Care Teams - Pilot Scheme on Supporting Elderly and Carers carried out in Tsuen Wan and Southern District had achieved a satisfactory outcome, the Government had announced in the 2024 Policy Address that the scheme concerned would be extended to all 18 districts across the territory in the second quarter of 2025. The SWD would fully implement the scheme from April 2025 for a period of 12 months. The service of referring eligible elders and persons with disabilities by the Care Teams in the aforesaid two districts for installation and use of

EAS under the scheme concerned would also be extended for one year;
and

- (2) the SWD had issued invitations to the Care Teams across the territory on 21 January 2025 for inviting them to participate in the scheme concerned, and would hold a briefing session on the scheme concerned for the Care Teams in Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing districts on 7 February 2025.

45. Mr CHENG Chit-pun said that as regards the issue about “improving pedestrian facilities and ensuring road safety”, the Highways Department (HyD) had resurfaced the pavements along Castle Peak Road – Sham Tseng in 2024 and had received positive feedback from members of the public. However, the pavement off Rhine Garden near the BOCHK Sham Tseng Branch had not been resurfaced yet. He urged the HyD to follow up the matter concerned as soon as possible.

46. Senior District Engineer/South West (SDE/SW) of the HyD responded that the HyD expected that the resurfacing works concerned would be completed in the third quarter of 2025.

47. Mr KOO Yeung-pong said that the current approach for road resurfacing with paving blocks started by laying down a layer of fine sand, followed by placing the paving blocks on top. He pointed out that the sand would be washed away when cleansing the pavement, leading to the loosening of paving blocks. Elderly persons might face the risk of tripping over some protruding paving blocks. He therefore advised the HyD to study ways that would enhance the paving approach.

48. SDE/SW of the HyD responded that she would convey Members’ suggestions to the Research and Development Division of the HyD.

(Post-meeting note: There were many reasons that would lead to the paving blocks of pavements being uneven, including poor repair works by public utilities after conducting excavation works on pavements, excessive pressure on pavements due to illegal parking, and so on. In addition, cleansing streets with the use of high-pressure water jets might also lead to the loss of sand from the bedding layer of the paving blocks, resulting in uneven pavements. To address the aforesaid various reasons, the HyD would take the following measures: (i) regarding the problem of poor repair works for pavements by public utilities, the HyD would arrange dedicated personnel to regularly inspect the excavation works carried out by various public utilities to ensure that the works complied with the requirements outlined in the Excavation Permits (EPs). In the event that the road surface was found to

be damaged or poorly repaired, the HyD would require the holder of the EP to reinstate the road surface as soon as possible. If it took time for the road surface repair works to complete, the holder of the EP concerned must enclose the affected area with the use of appropriate lighting, signs and protective facilities to prevent accidents from happening; (ii) for streets that were frequently cleansed with high-pressure water jets, such as streets near wet markets, the HyD would use cement-sand mix instead of sand as the bedding layer of paving blocks in the light of the actual situation, and would apply joint sealant to the seams between paving blocks to reduce the unevenness of paving blocks caused by street cleansing.

As for the maintenance of paving blocks, the HyD regularly deployed staff to inspect public roads across the territory. If any paving blocks were found to be damaged or uneven, the HyD would arrange for contractors to carry out repairs as soon as possible and contact the Transport Department and HKPF to implement necessary temporary traffic management measures. Moreover, upon receiving reports of damage to roads or related facilities via the Government hotline, the HyD would also arrange repair works in a timely manner.)

49. The Chairman thanked various departments for providing the work reports, and asked them to continue with their submission of work reports to the TWDC every six months so as to let the public keep abreast of the implementation situation of various district issues in Tsuen Wan district.

VIII Item 7: Information Paper

Reports on Meetings of the Committees and Working Group under the Tsuen Wan District Council

(TWDC Paper No. 28/24-25)

50. The Chairman said that the reports on the meetings of the six committees under the TWDC were set out in TWDC Paper No. 28/24-25.

51. The Chairman said that the Working Group on Boosting Local Economy (WGBLE) had just held its fourth meeting in the morning of the meeting day. The Chairman asked Mr CHAN Hiu-chun, the Chairman of the WGBLE, to report on its work.

52. Mr CHAN Hiu-chun reported as follows:

- (1) the WGBLE had taken forward a number of activities that boosted local economy in 2024, including “Celebrating the Year of Dragon –

Tsuen Wan Lantern Festival Bazaar”, “Summer Lucky Draw in Tsuen Wan District” and “Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Founding of the People’s Republic of China – Floating Colours Carnival”;

- (2) with a view to boosting local economy, encouraging local consumption and supporting the concept of “tourism is everywhere in Hong Kong”, the WGBLE suggested producing promotional videos and setting up a dedicated website in 2025, as well as engaging key opinion leaders and leveraging social media platforms for publicity purposes. The website would feature information about tourism in Tsuen Wan, including its cultural attractions, popular shopping spots, gourmet guides, recommendations for one-day travel routes and transportation options, etc., so as to attract more local and overseas visitors to explore Tsuen Wan; and
- (3) members of the WGBLE unanimously agreed to the suggestion concerned. The organiser and co-organisers concerned would further study the details.

53. The Chairman asked members of the WGBLE to continue to discuss the suggestions raised during the meeting with the TWDO after the meeting and to finalise the details in the next meeting of the WGBLE.

54. Members noted the captioned paper.

IX Item 8: Any Other Business

55. The Chairman said that Hong Kong Academy of Ice Hockey had invited the TWDC to become a supporting organisation of the District-based Ice Hockey Development Programme for Hong Kong Youths and hoped to use the TWDC’s logo on the publicity materials for the Ice Hockey Development Programme as well as the District-based Ice Hockey Tournament. He asked if Members agreed that the TWDC should become a supporting organisation of the activity concerned and approved the use of the TWDC’s logo by Hong Kong Academy of Ice Hockey. Members unanimously agreed to the arrangements.

56. Ms WONG Shuk-fan, Luparker commended the Leisure and Cultural Services Department for arranging schools in Tsuen Wan district to participate in the Water Safety Workshop. The activities of the workshop included having lifeguards to share knowledge about safety of water sports and interactive experiential sessions simulating the rescue of drowning victims. Such activities had notably enhanced the students’ awareness on water safety as well as their understanding of the daily work of lifeguards, bearing remarkable significance.

X Item 9: Date of Next Meeting

57. The Chairman said that the date of the next meeting was 25 March

2025 (Tuesday). According to the Standing Orders, Members who wished to raise an item for discussion at a meeting were required to submit the paper with a notice in writing to the Secretariat ten clear working days before the meeting. Hence, the Chairman reminded Members that the deadline for submission of papers was 10 March 2025 (Monday).

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat
March 2025