

Summary of Discussion Items

The 2nd Meeting of the Yuen Long District Council in 2013

The second meeting of the Yuen Long District Council (YLDC) in 2013 was held on 23rd April 2013. The major issues discussed are summarised below:

I. Meeting with The Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP

2. The Hon IP Kwok-him, member of the Legislative Council (District Council (second) Functional Constituency, briefed Members on his work in the Legislative Council in relation to district administration. He exchanged views on various issues with Members. A number of Members said that since the wastage rate of Members' Assistants was high and the costs of office such as rent was soaring, they hoped Hon Ip would reflect to the relevant Bureaus and Departments that the salaries and benefits of DC Members should be improved to facilitate efficient performance of their duties. Some Members hoped to strengthen communication with the LegCo with the aim of obtaining more information on new policies and legislations so that more comprehensive services would be provided for members of the public.

II. Meeting with The Commissioner for Transport

III. Ms CHIU Sau-han, Mr LEE Yuet-man, MH, Mr CHUI Kwan-siu, Mr LUI Kin, Mr KWOK Keung, Mr SHUM Ho-kit, Ms WONG Wai-ling, Mr MAN Chi-sheung, Mr SIU Long-ming, Mr WONG Cheuk-kin, Mr LUK Chung-hung, Mr TANG Cheuk-him, Mr MAN Kwong-ming, Mr CHEUNG Muk-lam, Miss YAU Tai-tai, BBS, MH, Ms LAU Kwai-yung, Mr YIU Kwok-wai, Ms YUEN Man-ye, Mr LAI Wai-hung, Mr WONG Wai-shun and Mr KWOK Hing-ping proposed to discuss "Request for the Commissioner for Transport to respond actively to this Council's resolution on 'This Council strongly demands revision of the routing of B1 to extend the service coverage to Tin Shui Wai Central and North'"

3. The Commissioner for Transport exchanged views with Members on the department's traffic improvement measures and the traffic and transport development in Yuen Long district. Members were generally concerned about the impact of the "area approach for rationalising bus routes" on Yuen Long residents and they expressed disappointment on certain proposals under such approach. They opined that the proposals put forward by the department to reduce bus routes and the frequency of buses would make it difficult to cope

with the increasing traffic demand in the wake of the population growth in Yuen Long district. They requested the department to consider carefully the proposals of and resolutions previously passed by the District Council. A number of Members reflected that local residents had great demand for bus route nos.B1 and E34. As the two bus routes provided service for Yuen Long town and South Tin Shui Wai only, they urged the department and the bus company to consider splitting the routing of E34 into two, i.e. to start service in Tin Shui Wai and Yuen Long town respectively. Besides, Members voiced out their opinions on extending the Public Transport Interchange (PTI) in Lok Ma Chau, pedestrian access in Yuen Long town and highway network development in Yuen Long district, etc.

4. The Commissioner for Transport responded that Members' views on the proposed "area approach for rationalising bus routes" were noted. He pointed out that certain public transportation services in Yuen Long district had their routings duplicated with one another. In order to save resources, the department proposed to adjust or reduce the bus routes with low patronage with a view to relieving traffic congestion and improving air quality. In the long term, the proposals would alleviate the pressure of bus fare increase. She said that the department planned to discuss with Members on the proposed "area approach for rationalising bus routes" from the middle of the year, and would put forward some revised proposals for Members' comments. Regarding the proposal about the PTI in Lok Ma Chau and route no. B1, the department noted the aspirations of the residents. However, the routing passed by the conservation area and the number of vehicles that passed through the area had exceeded the limit set by the Environmental Protection Department. In view of the conservation issue involved, the department would still have to consider and study the proposals.

IV. "Our Future Railway" Stage 2 Public Engagement exercise

5. A number of Members requested the bureau to commence promptly the works of the Northern Link, which had been discussed for a long time. They hoped the government would formulate long term and effective railway policy to facilitate the development of new development areas and towns as well as cope with the traffic demands brought about by the population growth and economic activities. Besides, some Members hoped that the administration would review the calculation of average patronage, and pointed out that it was always difficult for passengers to board the West Rail trains

during peak hours. They suggested the administration and MTRC to increase the number of compartments for West Rail trains to cope with the ever-increasing demand for local residents.

V. Implementation of “Signature Project Scheme”

6. The Yuen Long District Council (YLDC) had held two joint workshops on the “Signature Project Scheme” earlier. On the basis of the selection criteria formulated during the first joint workshop, the feasibility of the proposed projects and the comments of the government departments concerned, four proposed projects had been selected for further consideration. YLDC had held a public forum to gauge the views of Members and local personalities in Yuen Long. Members in the forum generally supported two proposals, namely, the construction of a community services complex serving the Yuen Long district and the construction of a market and cooked food centre in Tin Shui Wai. With a view to paying heed to residents’ needs, some Members proposed to organise one more forum in Tin Shui Wai. The meeting agreed to the above proposal. On the other hand, some Members hoped that the consultation would be concluded and a project selected as early as possible so that works would commence promptly.

VI. Progress Reports of Committees

7. Members noted the progress report of the Yuen Long District Management Committee and those of the six committees under YLDC.

VII. Funding provision for YLDC in 2013-14

8. Members noted the funding provision for YLDC in 2013-14, and endorsed the proposal to reserve central funding of \$4.2 million under Home Affairs Department’s block vote for district minor works projects in 2013-14 for the purpose of implementing emergency works, and meeting unexpected cash flow requirements or carrying out cross-district programme coordinated by the Home Affairs Department during the year.

VIII. The 5th Yuen Long District Youth Festival

(i) Funding application

9. Members unanimously endorsed an allocation of \$600,000 for sponsoring the organization of “The 5th Yuen Long District Youth Festival” by the Yuen Long District Youth Festival Coordinating Committee.

(ii) Invitation for YLDC team to participate in “Yuen Long District Youth Festival Road Race 2013”

10. Members endorsed forming a team to participate in the above race. The Secretariat would write to invite Members and co-opted Members to join the YLDC team.

IX. Invitation for YLDC to co-organise celebration activities for the 16th anniversary of reunification with the motherland

11. Members unanimously endorsed YLDC’s co-organising the celebration events for the 16th anniversary of reunification with the motherland with the six rural committees in Yuen Long and the Federation of Yuen Long Associations, and endorsed in principle an allocation of \$250,000 for sponsoring the above events. The budgets for the events and breakdowns of expenditure by items would be submitted for the Finance Committee (FC) for approval in due course.

12. Besides, Members unanimously endorsed Mr CHEUNG Muk-lam, Ms CHIU Sau-han, Mr CHUI Kwan-siu, Mr LEE Yuet-man, MH, Mr SIU Long-ming, Miss WONG Wai-ling, Miss YAU Tai-tai, BBS, MH and Ms YUEN Man-yee (8 members) as YLDC’s representatives to join the said Organising Committee.

X. Invitation for YLDC to co-organise celebration activities for the 64th anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China

13. Members unanimously endorsed YLDC’s co-organising the celebration events for the 64th anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China with the six rural committees in Yuen Long and the Federation of Yuen Long Associations, and endorsed an allocation of \$61,050 for employing a Project Coordinator for a term of six months with effect from 1 June 2013. The Project Coordinator would commence preparation work for the events. The budgets for the events and breakdowns of expenditure by items would be submitted for FC for approval in due course.

14. Besides, Members endorsed the setting up of “Yuen Long District Organising Committee for the Celebration of the National Day of the PRC” and the appointment of YLDC Chairman as ad hoc convenor and Mr CHEUNG Muk-lam, Ms CHIU Sau-han, Mr CHUI Kwan-siu, Mr LEE Yuet-man, MH, Mr SIU Long-ming, Miss WONG Wai-ling, Miss YAU Tai-tai, BBS, MH and

Ms YUEN Man-ye (8 members) as YLDC's representatives to join the said Organising Committee.

XI. Invitation for YLDC to co-organise the Anti-Corruption Project in Yuen Long district in 2013-14

15. Members unanimously endorsed YLDC's co-organising the Anti-Corruption Project in Yuen Long district in 2013-14 with ICAC.

XII. Invitation for YLDC to be the supporting organisation of the 4th "Quit to Win" Smoke-free Community Campaign

16. Members unanimously endorsed YLDC's serving as the supporting organization for the said campaign and agreed that the Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health would use the logo of YLDC to promote the related activities.

XIII. Invitation for YLDC to support the District Services Brochure of the Employee Retraining Board

17. Members unanimously endorsed YLDC's serving as the supporting organization for the "District Services Brochure (Yuen Long)" and agreed that the logo of YLDC would be published on the said brochure by the Employee Retraining Board.

XIV. Invitation for YLDC to support "Community Venues for Mediation"

18. Members unanimously endorsed YLDC's serving as the supporting organization for the "Community Venues for Mediation".

XV. Revising the date of the 6th meeting of YLDC in 2013

19. In order to facilitate Members' participation in the Ta Chiu activity organised by the Yuen Long Kai-fong Ten Years' Ta Tai Jew Committee, the sixth meeting of YLDC in 2013, originally scheduled for 17th December 2013, would be rescheduled for 10th December.

XVI. Any other business

(i) Invitation for YLDC to co-organise the Hong Kong Table Tennis Reunification Cup Tournament

20. Members unanimously endorsed YLDC's co-organising the above tournament with the the Federation of Yuen Long Associations.

(ii) Invitation for YLDC to co-organise district dance activities

21. Members unanimously endorsed YLDC's support for the large-scale community activity, namely "Dancing Kids" (《區區小跳豆》) under the Hong Kong Dance Festival 2013, and the relevant local organisations would be invited to participate in the activity to be held in the district.

Yuen Long District Council Secretariat
May 2013