

**Minutes of the Second Meeting of
Social Welfare and Labour Committee
under Yuen Long District Council in 2025**

Date : 16 April 2025 (Wednesday)
Time : 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Venue : Conference Room, Yuen Long District Council, 13/F., Yuen Long Government Offices,
2 Kiu Lok Square, Yuen Long

Present

Chairman : Mr CHONG Kin-shing, MH, JP

Vice Chairman : Mr SZE TO Chun-hin

Members : Mr WONG Hiu-shan

Ms HO Hiu-man

Ms LAM Wai-ming

Mr YIU Kwok-wai, MH

Mr TSUI Wai-ngoi

Ms YUEN Man-yee, MH

Ms MA Shuk-yin

Mr CHEUNG Wai-sum

Mr LEUNG Ming-kin

Mr CHAN Ka-fai

Ms CHAN Yin-kwan, Yankie

Mr WONG Siu-chung

Ms WONG Wai-ling

Ms LAI Yuet-kwan, Fennie

Mr TAM Tak-hoi

Co-opted Members : Mr WU Kin-keung, Calvin

Ms TAM Kam-lin, MH

Secretary : Ms CHUNG Shuk-man, Winky Executive Officer (District Council) 7,
Yuen Long District Office

In Attendance

Ms LEE Lai-ki, Theresa Liaison Officer-in-charge (Rural 6),
Yuen Long District Office

Ms WAN Yee-man, Fion Assistant District Social Welfare Officer
(Yuen Long) 2, Social Welfare Department

Mr FONG Tsam-wah Labour Officer (Employment Services)
(Sheung Shui), Labour Department

Item II

Ms LAW Sau-ying Assistant Planning Officer (Service
Development) 1,
Tung Wah Group of Hospitals

Item III

Ms FUNG Lai-hing, Karen Senior Labour Officer (Employment
Services) (Operation), Labour Department

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Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed Members and department representatives to the second meeting of the Social Welfare and Labour Committee (“SWLC”) of the Yuen Long District Council (“YLDC”) in 2025.

2. The Chairman welcomed Mr FONG Tsam-wah, the Labour Officer (Employment Services) (Sheung Shui) of the Labour Department (“LD”), who succeeded Miss LUI Wing-man, Vivian, for his first attendance at the meeting. He also thanked Miss Vivian LUI for her assistance to the SWLC in the past.

Item I: Confirmation of minutes of the first meeting of SWLC in 2025 held on 26 February 2025

3. Members unanimously confirmed the minutes of the first meeting of the SWLC in 2025 held on 26 February 2025.

Discussion Item:

Item II: Briefing on Social Services of Light Public Housing at Yau Pok Road (SWLC Paper No. 5/2025)

4. The Chairman referred Members to Paper No. 5 and welcomed Ms LAW Sau-ying, the Assistant Planning Officer (Service Development) 1, Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (“TWGH”), to the meeting.

5. After discussion, Members’ views and enquiries were summarised as follows:

- (1) An enquiry was made about the occupancy rate of Light Public Housing at Yau Pok Road, Yuen Long (“LPH project at Yau Pok Road”), traffic arrangements and the support to residents provided by its operating organisation, TWGH;
- (2) With the increasing number of residents moving into the LPH project at Yau Pok Road, Members enquired of the Social Welfare Department (“SWD”) on the staffing and resource arrangements for providing social welfare services to residents of the LPH, and recommended that the SWD to plan for more diversified social welfare services in the future, such as escorting services for medical consultations, child care services, provision of additional barrier-free facilities for the elderly and persons with disabilities, in order to cater for the needs of different individuals;
- (3) It was recommended that the SWD to follow the practice of transitional housing (“TH”) by reserving some units in the LPH project at Yau Pok Road as emergency accommodation for individuals with special needs (such as those experiencing domestic violence, disasters or drastic family change); and
- (4) It was reported that residents of Fairview Park were concerned about the impact of the neighbouring LPH project at Yau Pok Road on ancillary facilities in the community upon its intake of residents. It was suggested that the SWD and TWGH enhance communication with local stakeholders to address the concerns of Fairview Park residents.

6. A consolidated reply provided by Ms LAW Sau-ying of the TWGH was as follows:
- (1) The LPH project at Yau Pok Road featured a range of ancillary facilities, including a mini-supermarket, convenience store, and bakery. As residents gradually moved in, additional extended services, such as mobile Chinese medicine clinics and banking vehicles, would also become operational. Both residents of the LPH project at Yau Pok Road and the surrounding community could have access to these facilities and services;
 - (2) Facilities in a unit of the LPH project at Yau Pok Road were provided according to public rental housing standard, and therefore installation of air conditioners should be the responsibility of the residents. The TWGH had already liaised with air conditioner installation companies prior to intake of residents to facilitate pre-registration arrangements;
 - (3) To assist residents in adapting quickly to their new environment, the TWGH would arrange for residents to meet social workers before moving in. This would enhance understanding of their backgrounds and needs, enabling the provision of appropriate support services such as relocation assistance, second-hand home appliances, and a resource sharing platform;
 - (4) On transportation, both bus stop and minibus stop would be included in the LPH project at Yau Pok Road. It would take around 15 to 20 minutes for residents to travel to Yuen Long Town Centre. To cater for the needs of the growing population, the TWGH had gathered views from residents of the LPH project at Yau Pok Road through a questionnaire. This would enable the Housing Bureau (“HB”) and the Transport Department (“TD”) to enhance the related bus and minibus services as needed; and
 - (5) Since the LPH project at Yau Pok Road was still in the initial intake stage, relevant occupancy data could not be provided for the time being.

7. Ms Fion WAN of the SWD replied that, in response to the social welfare service needs arising from the completion of LPH and TH in Yuen Long District, the SWD had already provided diversified services tailored to the residents’ needs. The SWD had also invited various operating organisations to participate in collaborative meetings for TH and LPH. The first meeting was held in early April this year to facilitate communication and experience sharing, further addressing the welfare needs of the residents.

8. The Chairman concluded by expressing appreciation for the concern and support provided by the SWD and the TWGH to the residents of the LPH project at Yau Pok Road. He hoped that the residents could enjoy an improved living environment in the future.

Questions Raised by Members:

Item III: Mr SZE TO Chun-hin, Ms WONG Wai-ling, Ms MA Shuk-yin and Ms Fennie LAI proposed a discussion on “Regarding: Concern over the closure of Yuen Long Job Centre by the LD” (SWLC Paper No. 6/2025)

9. The Chairman referred Members to Paper No. 6 and the written reply from the LD.

He then welcomed Ms Karen FUNG, Senior Labour Officer (Employment Services) (Operation) of the LD, to the meeting.

10. After discussion, Members' views and enquiries on the issue were summarised as follows:

- (1) It was noted from the LD's written reply that the number of visitors to New Territories West Job Centre (previously known as Tuen Mun Job Centre) in 2024 was similar to that of Yuen Long Job Centre. Members enquired about the LD's decision to establish the New Territories West Job Centre in Tuen Mun by merging the Tuen Mun Job Centre with the Yuen Long Job Centre. As regards the merger of the job centres, Members hoped that the LD would have informed Members of the decision in advance and consulted local stakeholders;
- (2) It was believed that the projected population and employment demand in Yuen Long District would grow rapidly with the development of the Northern Metropolis. In this regard, Members were concerned about whether the newly merged New Territories West Job Centre could effectively meet the needs of residents in both Yuen Long and Tuen Mun. Members recommended the LD's continuous monitoring of the employment situation of Yuen Long residents and provision of adequate support;
- (3) It was noted from the LD that job seekers could search for job vacancies through its website, mobile application and "Job Easy" Vacancy Search Terminals. However, Members reflected that some grassroots might not be familiar with using smart devices for job search. Additionally, the current location of the New Territories West Job Centre was not convenient for access by Yuen Long residents. Therefore, Members suggested that the LD establish mobile employment service points or street booths in Yuen Long District to enhance employment support for residents;
- (4) An enquiry was made about the usage of "Job Easy" Vacancy Search Terminals in Yuen Long District and the details on the job fair to be held in Tin Ching Community Hall in Tin Shui Wai this June;
- (5) In response to the gradual intake of residents to LPH and TH in the district, Members enquired about the employment support provided by the LD to the residents there; and
- (6) Members said that they had frequently received requests for assistance from residents regarding labour disputes and unpaid wages. However, since the LD had not yet established a Labour Relations Division branch office in Yuen Long District, individuals seeking for assistance must travel across districts for mediation. Members hoped that the LD would address the needs within the district.

11. A consolidated reply provided by Ms Karen FUNG and Mr FONG Tsam-wah of the LD was as follows:

- (1) To enhance more effective use of manpower resources in the civil service, the Tuen Mun Job Centre at Victory Building, Tsing Min Path, Tuen Mun would merge with

the Yuen Long Job Centre starting 1 April 2025. Upon merging, the job centre would be renamed as the New Territories West Job Centre. In addition to the number of visitors, the LD also took into account a range of factors when making relevant arrangements. These included, but were not limited to the location of the job centre, the population density of the two districts, and the Government's future development plans;

- (2) Apart from job centres, the LD provided a diversified employment services including the Interactive Employment Services (“iES”) website, iES mobile application and telephone employment service to facilitate the public in obtaining employment information and searching for job vacancies;
- (3) The LD took note of Members' opinions and would continue to monitor the employment needs of Yuen Long residents and provide appropriate assistance. The LD would also utilise the District Council's local network to disseminate information on job vacancies and job fairs. In the future, when addressing district policies and labour issues, the LD would, where feasible, communicate with district personalities in advance to enhance collaboration;
- (4) There were 17 “Job Easy” Vacancy Search Terminals in Yuen Long District. They were installed at convenient locations within government departments or non-governmental organisation service points to make it easier for job seekers in the district to browse job vacancy information. The LD would provide supplementary documents regarding detailed usage data after the meeting for Members' reference;

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat already forwarded the usage data of “Job Easy” Vacancy Search Terminals provided by the LD to the SWLC on 30 April 2025.)
- (5) The LD would organise a large job fair featuring nearly 50 participating organisations at Tin Ching Community Hall in Tin Ching Estate, Tin Shui Wai from 10 to 11 June this year. Interview rooms would be set up in the job fair for participating organisations to conduct on-the-spot interviews. The job fair would offer a wide range of job vacancies to Yuen Long residents. Additionally, there were LD counters set up at the venue to assist job seekers in downloading the “iES” mobile application and registering for the LD's employment services. Moreover, the LD planned to set up street counters in Yuen Long District later this year to distribute leaflets and assist residents in downloading the “iES” mobile application; and
- (6) In response to the employment demand from residents of LPH and TH in Yuen Long District, the LD would maintain communication with the HB and the operating organisations to provide residents with information on services offered by the LD.

12. The Chairman concluded by requesting the LD to take note of Members' opinions and suggestions regarding the employment support services in Yuen Long District with the aim of minimising the impact of the merged job centre on job seekers in the district.

Reports of Government Departments:

Item IV: Statistics on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (“CSSA”) caseload and domestic violence reports in Yuen Long District (SWLC Paper No. 7/2025)

13. The Chairman referred Members to Paper No. 7.
14. Members suggested that the SWD to include in the report the statistics on CSSA caseload and domestic violence reports in Yuen Long District during the same period last year to facilitate a review of the trends in related cases.
15. Ms Fion WAN of the SWD took note of Members’ opinions and said that the relevant statistics would be included in the report for the next meeting.
16. The Chairman concluded that the statistics on CSSA caseload and domestic violence reports in Yuen Long District warranted attention and requested the SWD to prepare a report for the next meeting based on Members’ opinions.

Any Other Business:

Item V: Hong Kong Joint Council for People with Disabilities “International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2025” (SWLC Paper No. 8/2025)

17. The Chairman referred Members to Paper No. 8 and said that the Hong Kong Joint Council for People with Disabilities would organise the “International Day of Persons with Disabilities” on 3 December this year. The YLDC was invited to show support for the event and to assign no more than three representatives to the “Organising Committee of International Day of Persons with Disabilities” after the meeting.
18. As Members raised no objection, the Chairman declared that the YLDC had been endorsed as a supporting organisation of the “International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2025” and requested the Secretariat to invite Members to join the “Organising Committee of International Day of Persons with Disabilities”.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat invited Members to join the “Organising Committee of International Day of Persons with Disabilities” by email on 6 June 2025.)

Item VI: Date of Next Meeting

19. The Chairman said that the next SWLC meeting would be held in the YLDC Conference Room at 2:30 p.m. on 25 June 2025.
20. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:30 p.m.