

For information on
20 November 2006

CoP Paper 21/2006

“Enhancing Self-Reliance Through District Partnership Programme” – Updates

Purpose

This paper updates Members on the implementation of the Enhancing Self-Reliance Through District Partnership Programme (the Programme).

Background

2. The Financial Secretary has earmarked, in the 2006/07 Budget, \$150 million over the next five years to strengthen district-based poverty alleviation work and assist socially disadvantaged groups to gain self-reliance, including support for social enterprises.

3. Home Affairs Department established the Programme in June 2006 to implement the above initiative. A forum was held on 4 July 2006 to brief interested parties on the Programme and the application procedure. Under the Programme, eligible organizations can submit funding applications all year round with deadlines set half-yearly to facilitate the vetting of applications by an Advisory Committee (AC). We received 82 applications for the first phase by the closing date of 31 August 2006. These applications comprise projects such as cafeteria, massage for health care, beauty care, sale of used clothes/items, guided-tour service, household maintenance and cleaning services, etc.

Progress to date

4. Due to the large number of applications received, the Programme Secretariat has been processing the applications by batches. By end October, the AC, comprising non-officials and officials, vetted and endorsed the first batch of 15 applications involving grants of about \$13 million. Implementation of these approved projects would create some 200 jobs. These projects will be implemented in districts

including Sham Shui Po, Kwun Tong, Tin Shui Wai and Tung Chung. A summary of the type of projects endorsed in October by the AC is at the Annex for reference.

5. Most of the approved projects could commence implementation in the first quarter of 2007. With grants from the Programme, the approved non-profit making organisations could start launching their projects which would promote social enterprises and create employment opportunities for the disadvantaged groups. The AC and the Programme Secretariat will provide appropriate support to the successful applicants in their project implementation. We are also putting in place the monitoring mechanism.

6. The Programme Secretariat is processing the remaining 67 applications. The AC will meet again later this month to endorse the second batch of applications. We will continue to update Members of the progress made at the appropriate juncture.

Home Affairs Department
November 2006

Annex

**A summary of the projects endorsed
by the Advisory Committee in October 2006**

<u><i>Name of Organization</i></u>	<u><i>Business Type</i></u>	<u><i>Amount of Grant (HK\$)</i></u>
1. Hong Kong Employment Development Service Limited	Household maintenance and cleaning services	1,100,000
2. ADPL Social Service Centre Limited	- ditto -	1,100,000
3. Society for Community Organization	- ditto -	1,100,000
4. The Salvation Army	Sales of used household items	900,000
5. Christian Action	Sales of used clothes	950,000
6. Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Lady MacLehose Centre	Sales of South East Asian handmade products made by ethnic minority women	663,000
7. Mental Health Association of Hong Kong	Sales of rehabilitation equipments	725,000
8. Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong	Magic performance, and sales of magic related commodities	460,000
9. Yan Chai Hospital	Cafeteria	368,000
10. Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council	- ditto -	1,000,000
11. Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association	Guided-tour service	1,130,000
12. Christian Family Service Centre	- ditto -	890,000
13. Methodist Centre	Graphic and webpage design	1,180,000
14. Tung Wah Group of Hospitals	Funeral accessories supplies	880,000

<u><i>Name of Organization</i></u>	<u><i>Business Type</i></u>	<u><i>Amount of Grant (HK\$)</i></u>
15. YMCA of Hong Kong	Child care services	415,000
Total :		<u>12,861,000</u>