

The Legislative Council Meeting on 16 February 2011
Motion on “Social welfare land use planning”

Progress Report

Background

At the Legislative Council meeting on 16 February 2011, the motion on “social welfare land use planning” moved by the Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che was carried. The full text of the motion is at Annex. This report informs Members of the follow-up action taken by the Administration.

Provision of welfare facilities in various development projects

2. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) continues to actively explore opportunities for incorporating social welfare facilities into development projects of government, institution or community facilities; public or private residential developments; and conversions of existing vacant government facilities for social welfare uses. For instance, in collaboration with the Home Affairs Department, SWD has recently completed the upfront planning for a joint-user complex in Area 44, Fanling to provide a community hall and social welfare facilities (including an integrated family service centre, and a district elderly community centre-cum-integrated home services team). The construction works will be undertaken by the Architectural Services Department, and the construction cost for the social welfare facilities will be charged to the Lotteries Fund. Subject to funding approval to be sought from the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council in June 2011, the construction works are scheduled to commence in the fourth quarter of 2011 for completion in the first quarter of 2014.

3. Under the development project of a new public housing estate in Area 52, Sha Tin, the provision of 11 social welfare facilities (including a residential care home for the elderly (RCHE), a rehabilitation home, a community centre for the elderly, a day rehabilitation centre, etc.) has been finalised by the Housing Department and SWD. The project has started and is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2015.

SWD has also taken forward the plan to provide an RCHE in the Urban Renewal Authority's redevelopment project at Un Chau Street and Fuk Wing Street (K22). Funding support for the construction cost of the RCHE has been secured from the Lotteries Fund Advisory Committee.

4. To explore the feasibility of conversion for social welfare uses, SWD continues to actively liaise with relevant departments regarding a number of vacant school premises which are located in public housing estates and confirmed as surrendered by the Education Bureau.

5. Through the above mechanism, SWD strives to provide suitable accommodation for social welfare facilities. In addition to the projects mentioned above, SWD is working closely with relevant government departments in planning permanent accommodation for social welfare facilities (mostly elderly services and rehabilitation services) in public/private development projects, existing public housing estates and government premises.

Elderly Service Facilities

6. Take elderly services as an example. Among the seven newly built contract RCHEs, two (located in Un Chau Estate and the government complex in Tung Chung respectively) will commence service in 2011. Another two RCHEs (located at Tai Kok Tsui Road and Willow Street respectively) and the remaining three (located in Sai Ying Pun, Hoi Ting Road/Hoi Wang Road junction, and Tai Wai respectively) will commence service gradually in 2012-13 and 2013-14 respectively. A total of about 460 subsidised places and about 300 non-subsidised places will be provided. In addition, SWD has earmarked sites in another ten development projects for the construction of new contract RCHEs, such as the aforesaid development project of the Urban Renewal Authority. SWD will continue to identify suitable sites for constructing new contract RCHEs.

Rehabilitation Service Facilities

7. As for rehabilitation services at the community level, the number of District Support Centres for Persons with Disabilities, which are

expected to come into full operation between mid and end of 2011 in permanent accommodation, has been increased from six to eight. The two additional centres are located in Sha Tin and Tai Po respectively, where preparatory works of renovation have started. SWD has also identified six sites in public housing estates in Eastern District, Islands District, Sha Tin, Tai Po, Tsing Yi and Tuen Mun as permanent accommodation for Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness, and is now proceeding with the necessary preparatory work, including consultation with the local communities to enlist support for setting up these service points.

Labour and Welfare Bureau
April 2011

**Motion on
“Social welfare land use planning”
moved by Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che
at the Legislative Council meeting
of Wednesday, 16 February 2011**

Wording of the Motion

That, given that at present, the Government does not include social welfare use as one of the considerations of land use planning, resulting in many welfare service units' quality of service being affected due to inadequate area or inability to meet the requirements of net operational floor areas specified in the relevant Schedules of Accommodation; some units are even unable to commence operation due to failure to identify permanent venues; recently, there have been delays in residential care homes for the elderly, residential care homes for persons with disabilities, District Support Centres for Persons with Disabilities and Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness, etc. finding places to commence operation because of the authorities' unsatisfactory land use planning, which ultimately causes service users to suffer; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to face up to the inadequacy of social welfare land use, have land zoned for welfare use well in advance, expedite the provision of lands for welfare use as needed, and jointly draw up with the sector a mechanism for long-term social welfare land use planning, including collating social indicators, assessing social welfare needs and appropriately dovetailing with the implementation of welfare policies when formulating land policies, so as to ensure that the development of social welfare services will not be impeded; moreover, this Council also urges the Government to enhance civic education, with a view to fostering greater public acceptance of the integration of the socially disadvantaged into the community.