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Legislative Council

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Finance Committee of the Legislative Council

Minutes of the 7th meeting
held at the Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex
on Friday, 16 December 2011, at 3:45 pm

Members present:

Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP (Chairman)
Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, SBS, S.B.St.J., JP
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan
Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, SBS, JP
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong
Hon CHAN Kam-lam, SBS, JP
Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, GBS, JP
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Dr Hon Philip WONG Yu-hong, GBS
Hon LAU Kong-wah, JP
Hon LAU Wong-fat, GBM, GBS, JP
Hon Miriam LAU Kin-yeet, GBS, JP
Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo
Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, SBS, JP
Hon LI Fung-ying, SBS, JP
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, SBS, JP
Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP
Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, SC, JP

Hon Vincent FANG Kang, SBS, JP
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, MH
Hon LEE Wing-tat
Dr Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, SBS, JP
Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, GBS, JP
Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, GBS, JP
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, BBS, JP
Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC
Hon KAM Nai-wai, MH
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, JP
Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, BBS, JP
Hon CHAN Hak-kan
Hon Paul CHAN Mo-po, MH, JP
Hon CHAN Kin-por, JP
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, JP
Dr Hon LEUNG Ka-lau
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che
Hon WONG Sing-chi
Hon WONG Kwok-kin, BBS
Hon IP Wai-ming, MH
Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBS, JP
Dr Hon PAN Pey-chyou
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP
Dr Hon Samson TAM Wai-ho, JP
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip

Members absent:

Dr Hon David LI Kwok-po, GBM, GBS, JP
Dr Hon Margaret NG
Hon WONG Yung-kan, SBS, JP
Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, GBS, JP
Hon CHIM Pui-chung
Hon Tanya CHAN
Hon WONG Yuk-man

Public officers attending:

Professor K C CHAN, SBS, JP	Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury
Mr Stanley YING, JP	Permanent Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury)
Ms Alice LAU, JP	Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury)1
Ms Elsie YUEN	Principal Executive Officer (General), Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (The Treasury Branch)
Miss Susie HO Shuk-ye, JP	Director of Administration and Development, Department of Justice
Mr Kevin P ZERVOS, SC	Director of Public Prosecutions, Department of Justice
Ms Christina CHEUNG Kam-wai	Deputy Law Officer (Civil Law), Department of Justice
Mr Paul TANG, JP	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Mrs Polly CHAN	Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare) 4
Mr FUNG Pak-yan, JP	Deputy Director of Social Welfare (Administration)
Mr NG Wai-kuen	Chief Social Security Officer (Social Security) 1, Social Welfare Department
Ms Cecilia CHAN Mei-ping	Senior Statistician (Social Welfare), Social Welfare Department
Mr Franco KWOK Wai-fan	Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Poverty)
Mrs Anna MAK CHOW Suk-har	Deputy Director of Social Welfare (Services)
Ms Caran WONG Ka-wing	Assistant Director of Social Welfare (Family and Child Welfare)

Clerk in attendance:

Mrs Constance LI	Assistant Secretary General 1
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Staff in attendance:

Ms Anita SIT	Chief Council Secretary (1)5
Ms Annette LAM	Chief Council Secretary (1)7
Mr Daniel SIN	Senior Council Secretary (1)7
Miss Queenie LAM	Senior Legislative Assistant (1)2
Mr Frankie WOO	Senior Legislative Assistant (1)3
Ms Christy YAU	Legislative Assistant (1)8

The Chairman advised that a new arrangement for members to use the "request to speak" system installed in Conference Room 1 would be tried out at this meeting. The arrangement would be adopted and included in the FC Procedure at a later stage.

Item No. 1 - FCR(2011-12)58

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ESTABLISHMENT
SUBCOMMITTEE MADE ON 28 NOVEMBER 2011**

2. The Chairman advised that the Committee's approval was sought for the staffing proposals in FCR(2011-12)58 which were recommended by the Establishment Subcommittee on 28 November 2011.

3. The Chairman put the item to vote. The Committee approved the proposal.

Item No. 2 - FCR(2011-12)59

**HEAD 92 – DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Subhead 234 Court costs**

4. The Chairman advised that the item sought the Committee's approval of a supplementary provision of \$86.610 million under Head 92 Department of Justice Subhead 234 Court costs for meeting the expected higher-than-normal payment in court costs in 2011-2012.

5. The Chairman put the item to vote. The Committee approved the funding proposal.

Item No. 3 - FCR(2011-12)60

HEAD 170 – SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT

Subhead 179 Comprehensive social security assistance scheme

Subhead 180 Social security allowance scheme

6. The Chairman advised that the item sought the Committee's approval of an increase in standard payment rates under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme and the rates of allowances under the Social Security Allowance (SSA) Scheme with effect from 1 February 2012 at a financial implication of \$1,246 million in annual recurrent expenditure.

7. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che, Chairman of the Panel on Welfare Services, reported that the proposal was discussed at the Panel meeting held on 14 November 2011. Panel members did not object to the proposal but suggested that the Administration should expeditiously review the adjustment mechanism of standard payment rates and rent allowance under the CSSA Scheme, as the index and indicators used to assess the basic needs of CSSA households lagged far behind inflation.

Review of CSSA and SSA rates

8. While expressing support for the proposed upward adjustment in CSSA standard payment rates and the SSA rates, Mr WONG Kwok-hing questioned that the proposed 5.2% increase was insufficient to help CSSA or SSA recipients to meet the rising living cost and cope with the inflationary impact. He said that the proposed percentage increase in electricity charges recently announced by the two electricity companies was much higher than 5.2%.

9. Deputy Director of Social Welfare (Administration) (DDSW(Adm)) explained that the CSSA standard payment rates and rates of allowances under the SSA Scheme were adjusted based on the changes in price level reflected by the 12-month moving average of the Social Security Assistance Index of Prices (SSAIP) from November 2010 to October 2011. The SSAIP was compiled by the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) on a monthly basis to reflect the impact of price changes on CSSA recipients. The SSAIP also had a weighting system which truthfully presented CSSA recipients' expenditures on individual categories of goods and services as a proportion of their total expenditures. Under the existing annual adjustment cycle, the Secretary for Labour and Welfare, in consultation with the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, would take into account

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the SSAIP movement for the past 12 months ending October and sought the approval of FC in December each year, so that the new rates would take effect in February of the following year. The new rates would maintain the purchasing power of CSSA recipients.

10. Mr LEE Cheuk-yan disagreed that the proposed adjustment to the CSSA and SSA rates could enable recipients to keep pace with inflation. He expressed great disappointment that CSSA and SSA recipients had to struggle with rising price levels for 12 months before the rates were adjusted. He said that the livelihood of the poor would be affected adversely during inflationary period if their CSSA or SSA payment rates were based on actual SSAIP movements in the preceding year. He asked whether the Administration would reinstate the previous inflation forecast methodology of adjusting the CSSA and SSA payment rates based on a projected rate of inflation. Since the last CSSA review was conducted some 15 years ago, he was strongly of the view that the Administration should overhaul the adjustment mechanism, review the choice of items of goods and services included in SSAIP, and update the expenditure pattern of CSSA households on essential items having regard to the prevailing economic conditions and rising cost of living.

11. PSLW replied that the Administration considered it inappropriate to revert to the inflation forecast methodology for adjusting social security payments, in view of the observations and recommendations of the Director of Audit in his Report published in 1999 raising concern about over-estimation of SSAIP. He pointed out that the use of forecast method would mean that in the event of a significant over-estimation, the differences would be taken into account in calculating the adjustment for the following year. However, it would be difficult for CSSA and SSA recipients to adjust to a significant downward adjustment of rates to make up for the over-adjustment in the preceding year.

12. Mr Albert CHAN said that he would not vote against the funding proposal as the increase in payment rates would at least help alleviate the inflation pressure on some CSSA households. However, he criticized the Administration's bureaucratic mentality ignoring the financial hardship of CSSA or SSA households at times of high inflation, and not acceding to members' repeated request for improving the adjustment mechanism for social security payments to address the actual needs of the recipients. He said that despite members' requests, the Administration had not provided the breakdown of actual expenditure of CSSA or SSA households on essential items such as food, rent, etc. to help determine whether the proposed payment adjustments were adequate. He also criticized that while many different

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funding schemes were set up purportedly to help those in need, the huge administrative expenses were incurred without bringing any real benefits to the needy.

13. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung said that the proposed 5.2% increase in CSSA and SSA payment rates would mean an additional \$100 per month or around \$3 a day which could in no way compensate for the rise in inflation. He opined that the baseline of the CSSA payments was below the basic subsistence level and could not catch up with inflation. Moreover, the price index had a long lag time behind the prevailing economic circumstances. He strongly urged the Administration to review the adjustment mechanism for CSSA payments, re-assess the basic needs of the recipients, and re-calculate the payment rates.

14. PSLW responded that the well-established adjustment mechanism was objective and effective. He explained that the CSSA standard payment rates were adjusted annually based on SSAIP movements so as to maintain the purchasing power of the recipients. Apart from monitoring regularly the movements of SSAIP, the weighting of individual items of goods and services covered by SSAIP was updated every five years based on the findings of the Household Expenditure Survey (HES) on CSSA Households. He highlighted that on top of the standard payment rates which were adjusted according to SSAIP movements, the CSSA Scheme also provided different types of supplements and special grants to cater for the special needs of different groups of recipients. Currently, the average monthly CSSA payment (including various supplements and special grants) for singleton CSSA recipients was \$4,356, two-person households \$6,946, three-person households \$9,035 and four-person households \$10,641. Improvement measures had also been introduced under the CSSA Scheme, such as the extension of the coverage of the Community Living Supplement, and the new Residential Care Supplement to be implemented in the next year. He further pointed out that under exceptional circumstances and in times of high inflation, the Administration might consider adjusting the CSSA standard payment rates ahead of the normal adjustment schedule, as was the case in August 2008. To relieve the inflationary pressure, CSSA and SSA recipients were also provided with an extra payment, equivalent to one month of the CSSA standard rates and one month of the allowances under the SSA Scheme respectively, in July 2011. Apart from assistance under the CSSA Scheme, CSSA recipients might benefit from the Work Incentive Transport Subsidy and short-term food assistance service. He assured members that the Administration would continue to closely monitor the movement of SSAIP, and would seek approval to make additional adjustment ahead of the normal adjustment cycle where necessary.

Rent allowance

15. Mr WONG Kwok-hing said that many CSSA recipients were living in sub-divided flats, cubicle apartments, or bedspace apartments where rental cost per unit area was even higher than many high-end residential properties. He urged the Administration to flexibly adjust the CSSA payment for these recipients to cover their actual rental expenses.

16. DDSW(Adm) advised that the maximum levels of rent allowance (MRA) were adjusted annually with reference to the 12-month moving average of the Consumer Price Index (A) (CPI(A)) rent index for private housing (rent index), and were approved by the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury under delegated authority. The rent index up to October 2011 would be used to adjust the current MRA in accordance with the established mechanism. He said that approval for increasing the rent allowance by 5.7% was being sought in parallel, with a view to implementing the new rates on 1 February 2012. PSLW supplemented that CSSA recipients living in private accommodation who were paying rents higher than the rent allowance could receive assistance from the Community Care Fund (CCF).

17. Mr WONG Kwok-hing asked whether the rental assistance to be provided under CCF would be available to all CSSA recipients in private accommodation. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che said that the rental assistance of \$1,000 a year under CCF could not help all singletons on CSSA as such assistance was for elderly recipients. Mr LEE Wing-tat sought clarification on whether the CCF rental assistance was intended for elderly recipients. DDSW(Adm) advised that there was no age restriction for receiving CCF rental assistance. For CSSA households living in private housing and paying rents in excess of the MRA, a one-off rent assistance of \$1,000 and \$2,000 would be paid by CCF to single-person households and households with two or more members, respectively. It was expected that payment of the assistance would start from end December 2011.

18. Mr LEE Cheuk-yan commented that the current adjustment mechanism for MRA was flawed and could not truly reflect the prevailing market rental situation. According to the HES Reports of 1999/2000 and 2009/2010 published by C&SD, the increase in rental expenses among the lowest 50% expenditure households was 12%, whereas those of the lowest 5% expenditure households was as high as 33%. The existing mechanism for adjusting the MRA, which was based on the rent index covering the

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lowest 50% expenditure non-CSSA households, had therefore under-estimated the actual rise in rental for CSSA households which were more akin to the lowest 5% expenditure households. He said that the current method of adjusting rent allowance could not catch up with the soaring private market rent levels.

19. Mr LEE Wing-tat queried whether the CPI(A) rent index could realistically reflect CSSA households' actual rental expenses. He expressed regrets that the Administration had not followed up on his earlier requests of conducting in-depth surveys on rental costs of different types of private accommodation and developing a separate index on the rental expenses of singletons living in sub-divided flats.

20. DDSW(Adm) said that the existing adjustment mechanism was appropriate and effective. He explained that the rent index used for adjusting the MRA under the CSSA Scheme was updated monthly capturing the data of existing, new, and recently renewed tenancies. The rent index measured the rental movements of private housing of the relatively low expenditure non-CSSA households, and the average monthly expenditure of these households which ranged from \$4,500 to \$18,499 was broadly comparable to average monthly CSSA payments for one- to six-member CSSA households, which ranged from \$4,356 to \$15,379. He pointed out that preparing a separate index for singletons living in sub-divided flats could not reflect the circumstances of other CSSA households living in private accommodation, as some of them might not live in sub-divided flats. Despite this, the Administration had, at the request of the Panel on Welfare Services, produced a simulated CSSA rent index in 2008, which showed that the level of MRA would be decreased by 8.5% using CPI(A) private housing rent index, but would be decreased by 10.2% using the simulated CSSA rent index.

21. Mr LEE Wing-tat disagreed with the Administration's explanation, pointing out that the property and rental price levels in 2008 were low. He said that he would seek to convene a joint meeting of the Panel on Housing and the Panel on Welfare Services to follow up the matter.

22. Mr Abraham SHEK expressed concern that the proposed increase of the MRA by 5.7% was insufficient to cover the actual rental expenses of CSSA recipients in private accommodation and could not relieve their financial burden. He considered that the Administration had the duty to review the rent allowance adjustment mechanism to keep pace with the prevailing market rentals.

23. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che said that some singleton tenants were paying \$2,500 a month for a single-person sub-divided flat, while the monthly single-person rent allowance was only \$1,265. The proposed rent allowance of 5.7% would only mean an extra \$70 for these singleton recipients. He expressed concern that these CSSA recipients had spent less on food and other necessities in order to pay the rent.

24. Mr LEE Wing-tat said that some singletons living in sub-divided flats in Shamshuipo, Yaumatei, Mongkok and Kowloon City faced rental increases ranging from 20% to 30%. The proposed increase in standard payment rates were not enough to cover the actual rental payment, let alone the increases in other living expenses. He shared the concern that these recipients had to cut down on food and other expenses in order to meet the actual rental expenses. Mr Albert CHAN expressed a similar view that the average movement of the rent index in the past year did not fully reflect the soaring rental as well as the sharp increase in food prices faced by CSSA households.

25. PSLW said that under the Government's housing policy, those who could not afford private housing could apply for Public Rental Housing (PRH), while those with pressing housing needs on medical/social grounds could apply for compassionate rehousing.

26. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che commented that there were more than 20 000 singleton CSSA households living in private housing, and only 2 000 PRH units were allocated each year. The demand for PRH, especially from the singletons, could not be met within a short period of time. The Administration should therefore provide extra allowance for those CSSA recipients who needed to pay a higher rent in private accommodation while waiting for PRH allocation.

27. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung said that the Administration should tailor the services to suit the different circumstances of the grassroots community. He said that it was unusual by international standard that people had to spend such a large proportion of their income on accommodation as people in Hong Kong did. He criticized the Administration for failing to supply sufficient public housing for the needy and not taking effective measures to address the problem of rising rental costs of sub-divided flats. He suggested that the Government should pay for the actual rental expenses of CSSA recipients living in private accommodation.

28. PSLW responded that the Social Welfare Department (SWD) would take into account the special circumstances of individual households in determining the amount of CSSA payments for them.

Disability Allowance

29. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung said that recipients of Disability Allowance (DA) usually had higher expenses given their special needs. While the Chief Executive (CE) had announced in his Policy Address the public transport fare concession for eligible people with disabilities, the benefit was only available to those with 100% loss of earning capacity. He said that the less severely disabled persons were also experiencing heavy financial burden and inflation pressure. As the proposed increase in the DA payment rates could not even make up for the rise in transport costs, he asked what measures the Administration would take to help those less severely disabled persons.

30. PSLW responded that public resources were deployed to help severely disabled persons who were most in need of support, and 100% loss of earning capacity was adopted as the eligibility criterion for DA which was non-means tested. He said that other support schemes were available under CCF and that there were various charity trust funds to address different needs of persons with varying degree of disabilities. Persons with disabilities in financial hardship might also apply for CSSA to meet their basic needs.

31. There being no further questions, the Chairman put the item to vote. The Committee approved the proposal.

Item No. 4 - FCR(2011-12)61
HEAD 170 – SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT
Subhead 700 General non-recurrent
Item 811 Short-term food assistance

32. The Chairman advised that the item sought the Committee's approval of an increase of \$100 million in commitment for the continuation and enhancement of the short-term food assistance service.

33. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che, Chairman of the Panel on Welfare Services, reported that the funding proposal was discussed at the Panel meeting on 14 November 2011. While supporting the proposal in general, members of the Panel suggested that CSSA recipients, who were not

normally eligible for the food assistance service, should be allowed to receive assistance under exceptional circumstances.

34. Mr LEE Cheuk-yan asked whether single parents who came to Hong Kong on two-way permit and living on their children's CSSA payment could receive support under the food assistance service. Ms Cyd HO expressed a similar view and said that as the increase in CSSA payment rates lagged behind inflation, CSSA payment was not sufficient to cover expenses on food items if the food price increased sharply.

35. Deputy Director of Social Welfare (Services) (DDSW(Services)) said that the food assistance service aimed to provide short-term food assistance to individuals and families who had temporary difficulty in coping with basic food expenditure. Applications would be assessed according to the needs in each case. She advised that so far about 14% of the food assistance service beneficiaries were CSSA recipients who had special or emergency needs requiring food assistance. It was also noted that a small number of service users were holders of a two-way permit.

36. Mr LEE Cheuk-yan asked whether CSSA recipients or two-way permit holders could be advised publicly that they could seek food assistance service from participating service operators if in need. He said that SWD should give clear guidelines to the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) operating the service so that they would not turn away those applicants who were on CSSA payment. Ms Cyd HO remarked that the Administration should advise the service operators to exercise more flexibility in considering applications from CSSA recipients.

37. DDSW(Services) responded that the NGOs operating the service would assess the applications for food assistance service on individual merits and applicants would not be denied assistance solely on the basis of their residence status or their being CSSA recipients.

38. Noting that users of the food assistance service could now redeem food or hot meals from designated food stalls, supermarkets or restaurants with food coupons, Dr PAN Pei-chyou enquired about the criteria for selecting these designated service points and the number of service points that had been set up. DDSW(Services) replied that factors to be considered included location and the readiness of the operators of these service points to participate.

39. Dr PAN Pei-chyou expressed concern that the NGOs operating the service would tend to select major supermarket chains as suppliers to

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minimize sourcing effort. He said that some small local food stores could offer value-for-money and good quality food for service users and these could also be included for convenience of the users and for promoting business opportunities among small enterprises. Mr WONG Sing-chi said that SWD and operating NGOs should collaborate with small business operators in the districts to avoid monopoly by large supermarket chains. He asked what measures had been implemented to encourage small retailers to participate in the service. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung expressed similar views as Dr PAN and Mr WONG.

40. DDSW(Services) agreed that the service operators should diversify their source of food supplies and the service points should be conveniently located. She advised that the NGO operators had already engaged both supermarket chains and small local food stores that were willing to participate in the service. She added that some small shop proprietors were not eager to join because of operational and cashflow concerns.

41. Dr PAN Pei-chyou asked about the time taken for reimbursing the food suppliers. DDSW(Services) advised that reimbursement would be made in accordance with the established accounting procedures. The five operating NGOs were aware of small retailers' cashflow concerns and had made effort to shorten the time taken for reimbursement as far as possible. The Administration would also discuss with the five operating NGOs to encourage more small retailers and local business operators to participate in the service.

Admin 42. At the request of the Chairman, the Administration undertook to provide supplementary information on time taken for reimbursing food suppliers participating in the service.

43. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung enquired about the distribution of the service points as such information was not available on the SWD website. DDSW(Services) replied that the operating NGOs had established partnership and district networks in their respective serving areas. As the service points might change from time to time, the information was not uploaded onto SWD's website but was disseminated through the local community network. Members of the public and service users could contact the operating NGOs in their neighbourhood for updated information on the service points. She added that the operating NGOs would publicise the food assistance service among target users, and encourage community groups/district networks to proactively identify and refer target service users to them for assistance. At the request of Mr LEUNG, DDSW(Services) agreed to provide a list of the five NGOs operators and the distribution of the 400 service points of the food

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assistance service.

44. Mr WONG Sing-chi expressed concern that some people might stock up or sell the food coupons for profit. He asked how the Administration would prevent possible abuse of the service or misuse of the food coupons. DDSW(Services) said that the NGO operators would register and monitor the use of the coupons, and would randomly cross-check with the records kept by the participating shops and stores. As a control and monitoring measure, the operating NGOs would be required to submit monthly statistics on service utilization and provide an annual audited income and expenditure statement to SWD. SWD would also conduct regular and surprise visits to individual operating NGOs to ensure that the food assistance services were delivered in accordance with the service contracts. Service users were reminded that any abuse of the service would affect their future applications.

45. Ms Cyd HO noted that the food assistance service had been in operation for three years with an allocation of \$100 million. She anticipated that the number of service users would continue to increase in the light of economic downturn and rising inflation in the coming year. She opined that additional funding should be made available for the service.

46. DDSW(Services) acknowledged that there had been steady increase in the demand for the food assistance service. As at October 2011, there was a balance of around \$33.7 million which would enable the service to last until the beginning of 2012. Subject to FC's approval of the increase in commitment, the additional \$100 million could finance the enhanced service to the end of 2013. Additional funding would be provided to continue the service if necessary, as announced by CE in his 2011-12 Policy Address.

47. Ms Cyd HO said that some hotels disposed large quantities of prepared food that were not served. She suggested that the Administration should consider sponsoring an organization to operate a community kitchen to handle food collected from restaurants and hotels and distribute such food to people in need. Dr PAN Pei-chyou shared Ms HO's views.

48. DDSW(Services) said that the Administration would examine the feasibility of utilizing cooked food that had not served for those in need. Ms HO said that the matter should be further discussed by the relevant Panel.

49. The Chairman put the item to vote. The Committee approved the funding proposal.

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50. The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm.

Legislative Council Secretariat
16 March 2012