

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

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**Subcommittee on Poverty**

**Proposed continuation of work of the Subcommittee  
in the 2013-2014 session**

**Purpose**

This paper seeks members' views on the need for the Subcommittee on Poverty ("the Subcommittee") to continue its work in the 2013-2014 session.

**Background**

2. The Subcommittee was appointed by the House Committee ("HC") in October 2012 to study relevant policies and measures for easing the disparity between the rich and the poor as well as alleviating poverty, follow up the work of the Government's Commission on Poverty ("CoP") and make timely recommendations.

**Progress of Subcommittee's work**

3. Since 5 November 2012, the Subcommittee has held 12<sup>1</sup> meetings with the Administration and received views from deputations at three of these meetings. The Subcommittee has identified a total of 18 issues for discussion in its study and completed its discussions on the following nine issues –

- (a) poverty line;
- (b) elderly poverty;

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<sup>1</sup> The 12 meetings include the meeting to be held on 29 October 2013.

- (c) relationship between housing and poverty;
- (d) support for disadvantaged groups<sup>2</sup>;
- (e) proposed additional injection of \$15 billion into CoP's Community Care Fund ("CCF");
- (f) progress of work of CoP and its Task Forces;
- (g) support for low-income working households which are not on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance;
- (h) student financial assistance schemes for needy students of various education levels; and
- (i) qualifications framework.

4. After reporting its deliberations on the setting of poverty line to HC on 31 May 2013, the Subcommittee has forwarded the relevant report with recommendations to CoP for consideration and response. The Subcommittee also conducted a duty visit to Taiwan and Japan from 20 to 29 August 2013 to study their experience in alleviating poverty.

#### **Need for continuation of work in the 2013-2014 session**

5. The Subcommittee has yet to study the following eight issues which have been identified for discussion in its study –

- (a) ways to provide posts or types of work offering higher pay, and to assist members of the public in starting up businesses and earning more income for improving their poverty situation;
- (b) ways to alleviate poverty through information technology;
- (c) relationship between public health condition and poverty;

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<sup>2</sup> These groups include persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities, new-arrivals and single-parent families.

- (d) social security system;
- (e) intergenerational poverty;
- (f) women in poverty;
- (g) working poverty; and
- (h) social enterprises.

6. The Subcommittee is tasked to follow up the work of CoP, the current term of which will expire on 30 November 2014. Apart from the above issues, the Subcommittee will need to study some other issues which have been discussed by CoP or its Task Forces. In addition, the Subcommittee will be consulted prior to the Administration's launching of brand-new CCF programmes which are pilot in nature and the funding provision of which is expected to exceed \$100 million. The Subcommittee will also be briefed regularly on the funding position of CCF and the implementation progress of its programmes every six months.

7. To follow up its duty visit to Taiwan and Japan, the Subcommittee will draw up recommendations on the basis of the information/findings obtained in three areas (viz. working poverty, pension and developing local economy for poverty alleviation). Relevant recommendations will be presented to the Administration for consideration. A report on the visit will be prepared in due course for submission to HC.

8. Rule 26(c) of the House Rules provides that if a subcommittee on a policy issue appointed by HC considers it necessary to work beyond 12 months of its commencement, it should report to HC and give justifications for an extension of the 12-month period. Members are invited to decide whether the Subcommittee should continue its work for doing the tasks mentioned above. If members decide to do so, it is envisaged that the Subcommittee will need to continue its work for about 13 months until 30 November 2014.

### **Advice sought**

9. Members are invited to indicate whether they support the proposed continuation of the Subcommittee's work beyond the 12-month period and, if yes, the proposed extension to 30 November 2014. Subject to

members' views, the proposal will be submitted to HC for endorsement.

Council Business Division 2  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
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