

ITEM FOR FINANCE COMMITTEE

HEAD 63 – HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

Subhead 700 General non-recurrent

New Item “Signature Project Scheme (Tuen Mun District) – Promotion of Youth Development in Tuen Mun”

Members are invited to approve the creation of a new commitment of \$28.3 million under Head 63 – Home Affairs Department for “Signature Project Scheme (Tuen Mun District) – Promotion of Youth Development in Tuen Mun”.

PROBLEM

We need to provide funding to implement Tuen Mun District Council (TMDC)’s proposal to promote youth development in Tuen Mun (TM) as part of TM’s Signature Project.

PROPOSAL

2. The Director of Home Affairs, with the support of the Secretary for Home Affairs, proposes to create a commitment of \$28.3 million for delivering a youth development project in TM through partnering with a non-profit-making organisation under the Signature Project Scheme (SPS).

JUSTIFICATION

3. TMDC proposes to undertake a project entitled “*Promotion of Youth Development in Tuen Mun*” (the Project) as one of the two Signature Projects of TM District¹. The Project will comprise –

/(a)

¹ The other Signature Project in TM is “Revitalisation of Tuen Mun River and Surrounding Areas”, which was approved by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council on 13 May 2016 vide FCR(2016-17)20.

- (a) setting up a youth activity centre named “Youth Space”² as a focal point for youth services;
- (b) providing training and workshops for youth in capacity building, entrepreneurship, social innovation and sustainable development;
- (c) setting up coaching and mentorship schemes for youth and developing a social network with district organisations and schools; and
- (d) organising social innovation programmes to address social issues with relevant training, classes and workshops to capture district opportunities.

The works component of the Project (i.e. paragraph 3(a) above) costs \$3.7 million at money-of-the-day prices and was endorsed by the Public Works Subcommittee (PWSC) at its meeting on 20 April 2016 vide LC Paper No. PWSC(2016-17)2.

4. Judging from the median monthly household income, education attainment for households³ and the proportion of households with family member(s) aged 18 or below⁴, TM has a relatively higher number of grassroots families comprising youth with limited exposure to opportunities for personal development. Hence, there is a need to enhance youth support in TM to complement existing youth services and facilities by seeking to broaden the youth’s horizons, develop their career aspirations and strengthen their work skills.

/5.

² An existing premise on 4/F, Tseng Choi Street Government Services Complex will be renovated into the said Youth Space providing the following facilities –

- (i) a training room;
- (ii) a common area for working groups and a resting place;
- (iii) a leisure area; and
- (iv) ancillary facilities including an interview room and an office.

³ According to the “Population and Household Statistics Analysed by District Council District 2015” published by the Census and Statistics Department, the median monthly household income for TM is \$23,000, ranked the sixth lowest amongst 18 districts. In terms of educational attainment, only 24.7% of TM’s population has attained post-secondary education, lower than Hong Kong’s average figure (30.8%) and ranked the fourth lowest amongst 18 districts. Moreover, 21.5% of TM’s population has only attained primary education and below, higher than Hong Kong’s average level (18.9%).

⁴ According to “Hong Kong Poverty Situation Report 2014” published by the Commission on Poverty in October 2015, the poor population in TM was 70 300 with a poverty rate at 14.9%, ranked the seventh amongst 18 districts. Among the poor households in TM, the proportion of households with family member(s) aged 18 or below was 34.3%, which was higher than the corresponding figure of overall poor households at 31.7%.

5. Following an open and fair selection process⁵, TMDC selected Yan Oi Tong (YOT)⁶ as its partner for delivering the Project seeking to provide the specified services for youth aged 15 to 29 and residing or studying in TM. It is estimated that a total sum of \$26.3 million would be required for the purpose. With this funding support, YOT should be able to provide the services free-of-charge to youth participants for a period of six years. Thereafter, YOT plans to operate the Youth Space and provide the youth services on a non-profit-making and self-financing basis.

6. The Project which focuses on social innovation and entrepreneurship will serve as a new platform to engage and equip the youth in TM to be social capital for the betterment of the youth community, and the society as a whole. In response to youth's aspiration for community participation, the youth-led Project will also encourage the youth to take leading roles in various areas such as management of the Youth Space, planning and implementation of the youth services, spearheading initiatives to reach out and engage the community to participate in the Project. This is conducive to achieving the core objectives of the Project, which include nurturing youth leaders, enhancing youth's positive affirmation and sense of belonging to the community as well as promoting youth volunteerism in TM. Details of the youth services to be provided by YOT are set out in the ensuing paragraphs.

(A) Provision of youth services (\$15 million)

(I) Training and workshops for youth in capacity building, entrepreneurship, social innovation and sustainable development (\$3.7 million)

7. YOT plans to organise different kinds of training and workshops to help nurture youth participants with an entrepreneurial mind with creativity, and implement projects that will bring about sustained positive impact at various levels in the district. For this purpose, YOT will organise career-related training and workshops that help equip the youth participants with specialist skills such as financial and business planning, as well as basic knowledge and concept of entrepreneurship. YOT aims to organise over 1 200 hours of training and workshops with over 12 700 youth beneficiaries in the first six years.

/In

⁵ Invitation for non-profit-making organisations to submit proposals was posted in local Chinese and English newspapers in June 2014. Four proposals were received by the deadline in August 2014. The proposals were assessed by a Vetting Committee comprising members of TMDC and representatives from relevant government departments in accordance with the agreed assessment criteria (namely technical ability, financial ability, management ability, experience and commitment).

⁶ YOT was established in 1930s as a local organisation helping people in need. It was subsequently registered as a non-profit-making organisation in 1977 with the vision of providing services such as social welfare, medical and education for those in need in the community.

In nurturing a pool of district young leaders with an entrepreneurial and creative mind, about 25 outstanding district youth leaders will be given the opportunity to join an overseas exchange programme in the fourth year with a view to gaining deeper understanding of social innovation, including its development, relevant experiences and how it could be applied in Hong Kong. YOT would explore the feasibility of organising an exchange programme with relevant organisations in the United Kingdom to learn about their successful experience in social innovation and work out the details nearer the time.

(II) Coaching and mentorship scheme for youth and developing a social network with district organisations and schools to better support local youth development (\$1.5 million)

8. YOT plans to organise a Coaching and Mentorship Scheme which aims to match the youth participants with suitable life coaches such as professionals and entrepreneurs to provide assistance in different aspects of the youth's lives, including setting and reaching goals, developing and widening their social networks as well as knowledge and working experiences sharing. Youth participants can develop their values and ideas through interacting with life coaches from various sectors. In this regard, YOT aims to organise about 3 600 hours of coaching and mentorship sessions for about 18 000 youth beneficiaries in the first six years.

9. YOT will also partner with other youth services organisations, schools, etc. in TM to leverage on their networks and expertise to create synergy. A youth social innovation network will be formed by integrating efforts of some 20 organisations or individuals in the field of youth services such as non-government organisations and academic institutions in TM. It would promote more co-ordinated and focused efforts on youth issues, as well as generate more opportunities and make available shared resources for the Project and other youth development initiatives in building a sustainable community. It is expected that the number of participants of the social innovation network will amount to about 1 800 in the first six years.

10. To enhance community participation and strengthen communications to address the diverse needs of youth in the district, representatives from local universities such as Lingnan University, professionals and district organisations will be invited to be members of the "Coaching and Mentorship Scheme" (see paragraph 8 above). They will also be invited to be members of the "Vetting Committee of Social Innovation Programmes" (see paragraphs 11 and 12 below).

/(III)

(III) Social innovation programmes to address social issues and relevant training, classes and workshops to capture district opportunities (\$1.1 million)

11. YOT plans to organise a series of social innovation programmes which will address community issues of TM such as career development of youth, aging population, environmental and cultural preservation, etc., and incubate key projects with social objectives and sustainability. By making use of the skills and experience gained in various training and coaching programmes including those mentioned in paragraphs 7 and 8 above, youth participants will be encouraged to identify current social issues and to propose innovative and sustainable solutions which could benefit the district at large. A Vetting Committee of Social Innovation Programmes will be formed to assess the proposals and to select suitable ones for implementation.

12. It is envisaged that with the relevant training and workshops provided, youth participants will benefit from the process of developing their ideas into practical and workable proposals under the guidance of mentors, social workers and the Vetting Committee. YOT aims to organise some 50 social innovation programmes with about 2 500 beneficiaries⁷ in the community, and to organise over 1 000 hours of workshops and classes relevant to these programmes with about 7 200 youth beneficiaries in the first six years.

(IV) Professional and dedicated support for youth (\$8.7 million)

13. Professional and dedicated support for youth is essential to the successful implementation of the Project as professional skills are required for coaching, counselling and guiding youth as well as maintaining a good grasp of youth's needs. YOT plans to recruit three social workers and one programme officer for the core youth services stated in paragraphs 7 to 12 above for the first six years. One of the social workers will be the project-in-charge and responsible for overseeing the Project by spearheading the project team, planning the direction, monitoring performance and effectiveness as well as maintaining communications with relevant stakeholders such as TMDC and local youth organisations. The other two social workers will help organise training, workshops and relevant activities for the youth, offer counselling as well as provide guidance to youth in developing social innovation projects with the support of the programme officer.

/(B)

⁷ The target of each social creativity programme, such as elderly, youth, ethical minorities, children, etc. is about 50, thereby amounting to some 2 500 beneficiaries.

(B) Extending the Project's impact to the community (\$3.5 million)*(I) Community engagement and reaching out (\$1.6 million)*

14. Community engagement and out-reaching through sharing project achievements with the wider community are important components of successful youth projects. To reinforce the core objective of nurturing youth leaders and to develop a sense of belonging to the community, YOT plans to engage youth participants to take the lead in formulating strategies and implementing community engagement and reaching-out initiatives. For example, YOT plans to engage youth participants in planning and implementing the annual sharing activities for about 2 100 local residents in the first six years. The youth participants will also take a leading role in developing other initiatives such as producing creative video clips, maintaining social media platform, organising other community events. Apart from enabling the Project to reach out to the community, these initiatives will provide good opportunities for the youth participants to acquire practical experience in media production and develop a close rapport with the wider community.

(II) Project evaluation and social impact assessment (\$1.9 million)

15. To evaluate the impact of the Project on the community and its effectiveness on the promotion of youth development objectively, YOT plans to earmark \$1.9 million for impact assessment at the end of the third and the sixth years, in the form of mid-term and final evaluations respectively. The assessment is not only a credible means to measure the effectiveness of the youth services, but also a forward-looking way to chart the long-term youth service planning and sector development. Local universities and institutions will be invited to submit proposals for conducting the project evaluation and social impact assessment.

(C) Operational support for the Project (\$3.2 million)

16. To support the provision of youth services and alleviate the administrative burden on the professional staff dedicated for youth services, YOT plans to recruit one promotion and administration officer and one general worker for the first six years. The former will be responsible for planning and guiding the youth on community engagement and reaching out strategies (see paragraph 14 above), building up connection for the coaching and mentorship scheme and the social innovation network (see paragraphs 8 to 10 above) as well as handling the administrative work. The general worker will oversee the daily operation of the Youth Space and provide the necessary logistics support.

/(D)

(D) Operating expenses of the Youth Space in support of the provision of youth services (\$4.6 million)

17. The operation of the Youth Space in support of the provision of youth services would incur estimated operating expenses of about \$4.6 million on property management and maintenance, utilities, auditing, information technology and other consumables, etc. in the first six years. YOT will endeavour to keep its operating expenses to the minimum during the implementation of the Project.

Monitoring and control of the Project

18. With the support of the Tuen Mun District Office (TMDO), TMDC will closely monitor YOT's performance in delivering quality services and use of funding for the Project. Subject to funding approval by the Finance Committee (FC) of the Legislative Council (LegCo), TMDO will enter into a Service Agreement and a Tenancy Agreement with YOT covering the following major aspects for a period of six years –

- (a) terms of agreement and provision(s) on Government's right to terminate the Service Agreement and repossess the project site when deemed necessary;
- (b) services to be provided by YOT and the related performance indicators;
- (c) obligations of YOT, including payment of nominal rent for using the Youth Space, as well as operating, managing and maintaining the Youth Space;
- (d) payment and the related accounting arrangements of the SPS funding, including keeping separate books of account and records, submission of audited accounts, etc.;
- (e) monitoring and control mechanism including financial and budgetary control, submission of regular progress reports to TMDC and management control; and
- (f) procedural requirements of receiving donations and sponsorships.

Reviews will be conducted by TMDC and TMDO on the Project, including the performance of YOT during the six-year term and before completion of the Service Agreement.

/Non-civil

Non-civil service contract staff for the Project (\$2 million)

19. Under the SPS, District Councils, with the support of District Offices, will be responsible for implementing their SPS projects, monitoring project progress and evaluating effectiveness. While YOT will take up the responsibility for operating the Youth Space and providing the youth services within the service term, TMDO will support TMDC in ensuring effective monitoring of the quality of the activities and services delivered. In order to support the implementation and monitoring of the Project, we propose to earmark \$2 million for TMDO to hire non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff, namely one Project Manager and one Executive Assistant⁸. They will provide essential support to maintain liaison with relevant government departments, YOT and other stakeholders, monitoring of project progress/performance of YOT, collecting user feedback, processing reimbursement claims from YOT, etc.

Sustainability

20. While SPS funding is a one-off provision, TMDC and TMDO together with YOT will endeavour to facilitate the sustainability of the Project without continued funding from Government. YOT plans to operate the Youth Space and provide youth services in the longer run on a non-profit-making and self-financing basis, subject to the satisfactory operation of the Youth Space and provision of youth services and further deliberation by TMDC. Relevant plans include, for instance, seeking funding support from other sources (e.g. charity funds and donations, etc.), charging fees for some of the training and workshops after the first six years, allowing other organisations to rent the rooms at Youth Space at affordable fees, engaging youth participants as volunteers to support some of the work, etc.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

21. The proposal will incur an estimated non-recurrent cost of \$28.3 million. The estimated cash flow requirement from 2016-17 to 2022-23 is as follows –

| | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | Total |
|---------------------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| | (\$ million) | | | | | | | |
| (a) Youth services by YOT | 0.6 | 3.9 | 3.8 | 4.0 | 5.2 | 4.3 | 4.5 | 26.3 |
| (b) NCSC staff cost | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 2 |
| Total | 0.8 | 4.1 | 4.0 | 4.3 | 5.6 | 4.7 | 4.8 | 28.3 |

/22.

⁸ The two NCSC staff will also be responsible for overseeing the implementation of another Signature Project of TM District, namely “Revitalisation of Tuen Mun River and Surrounding Areas”.

Encl.

22. On paragraph 21(a) above, the estimated cost of \$26.3 million mainly covers the necessary expenses of YOT for implementing the Project for the first six years as explained in paragraphs 6 to 17. The estimated cost breakdown of the youth services is at Enclosure.

23. On paragraph 21(b) above, the estimated cost of \$2 million is for the hiring of NCSC staff as explained in paragraph 19.

24. Subject to the approval of the FC, we will include the resources required for meeting the cost of the Project in the Estimates of the relevant financial years.

25. Together with the funding of \$3.7 million endorsed by the PWSC vide LC Paper No. PWSC(2016-17)2 on 20 April 2016, a total amount of \$32 million is required for the implementation of the Project.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

26. To allow time for YOT to carry out the necessary preparation such as engaging consultant, tendering, renovation, equipment procurement and staff hiring, the proposed services will commence around nine months as from the date of FC's approval.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

27. The proposed Project is unanimously supported by TMDC and has received favourable feedback throughout TM. A roving exhibition on the project theme at TM Town Hall and four community centres/halls was held in May and June 2013 with questionnaires distributed at the venues to collect public's views. Results of the questionnaires showed that over 80% of the respondents supported the proposal of promoting youth development under the SPS⁹. The five Area Committees in TM were consulted in May 2013 and all were supportive of the proposal. Having regard to the views collected and the discussions in the Working Group on Development and Planning of TM District under TMDC on 19 August 2013, TMDC endorsed the Project as one of TM District's SPS projects at its meeting on 3 September 2013.

/28.

⁹ A total of 123 completed questionnaires were received by TMDO by the end of the consultation period with a response rate of about 50%.

28. Together with TMDC, we consulted the LegCo Panel on Home Affairs on 11 May 2015 and the Panel supported the proposal. At the PWSC meeting on 20 April 2016, Members endorsed the submission of the Project (works elements related to the renovation of the Youth Space) to the FC for approval.

BACKGROUND

29. The Chief Executive announced in the 2013 Policy Address that a one-off provision of \$100 million would be earmarked for each district to initiate project(s) under the SPS. The project(s) should address local needs or highlight the characteristics of the district, and have a visible and lasting impact in the community. TMDC proposes to use part of the funding (\$32 million) to undertake the Project as one of the Signature Projects in TM for the benefit of residents.

30. Another Signature Project of TM District – “Revitalisation of Tuen Mun River and Surrounding Areas” includes the provision of a new leisure area, beautification works at selected sites along the TM River and installation of decorative lightings and artwork with a view to rejuvenating the local community and providing additional leisure facilities in TM District. It involves a funding of \$67 million and was approved by the FC vide FCR(2016-17)20 on 13 May 2016. The two Signature Projects of TM District require a total funding of \$99 million which is within the provision of \$100 million earmarked for each district.

Home Affairs Bureau
Home Affairs Department
June 2016

**Estimated Cost for the Youth Services
Provided by Yan Oi Tong for the First Six Years**

| Items | Estimated Expenditure (\$'000) |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| (A) Provision of youth services | |
| (I) Training and workshops for youth in capacity building, entrepreneurship, social innovation and sustainable development | 3,720 |
| (II) Coaching and mentorship schemes for youth and developing a social network with district organisations and schools to better support local youth development | 1,500 |
| (III) Social innovation programmes to address social issues and relevant training, classes and workshops to capture district opportunities | 1,080 |
| (IV) Professional and dedicated support for youth | 8,694 |
| (B) Extending the Project's impact to the community | |
| (I) Community engagement and reaching out | 1,565 |
| (II) Project evaluation and social impact assessment | 1,900 |
| (C) Operational support for the Project | 3,194 |
| (D) Operating expenses of the Youth Space in support of the provision of youth services | 4,647 |
| Total | 26,300 |
