

立法會
Legislative Council

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LC Paper No. CB(2)2044/17-18

(These minutes have been
seen by the Administration)

Panel on Home Affairs

Minutes of meeting
held on Monday, 25 June 2018, at 8:30 am
in Conference Room 2 of the Legislative Council Complex

- Members present** : Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (Deputy Chairman)
Hon CHAN Hak-kan, BBS, JP
Hon YIU Si-wing, BBS
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP
Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, SBS, JP
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Hon IP Kin-yuen
Hon Andrew WAN Siu-kin
Hon Jimmy NG Wing-ka, JP
Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP
Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding
Hon SHIU Ka-fai
Hon SHIU Ka-chun
Hon Tanya CHAN
Hon HUI Chi-fung
Hon LUK Chung-hung
Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH
Hon KWONG Chun-yu
Hon AU Nok-hin
Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun, MH
Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS
- Members absent** : Hon Claudia MO
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin, BBS
Hon CHU Hoi-dick
Hon Kenneth LAU Ip-keung, BBS, MH, JP

Public Officers : Item III
attending

Dr LAW Chi-kwong, GBS, JP
Chairperson of the Community Care Fund Task Force
under the Commission on Poverty
Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Mr Patrick LI, JP
Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (1)

Mr Nick AU YEUNG
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs
(Community Care Fund)

Dr Raymond SO, BBS, JP
Under Secretary for Transport and Housing

Ms May CHAN, JP
Deputy Secretary for Education (6)

Ms PANG Kit-ling
Assistant Director (Family and Child Welfare)
Social Welfare Department

Ms Bridget SIU
Acting Assistant Director (Support)
Home Affairs Department

Ms Ivis CHUNG
Chief Manager (Allied Health)
Hospital Authority

Item IV

Mr LAU Kong-wah, JP
Secretary for Home Affairs

Mr Paul CHENG Ching-wan
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs
(Recreation and Sport) 1

Ms Linda LAW Lai-tan
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs
(Recreation and Sport) 2

Mrs Vicky TONG AU Yuk-chun
Chief Leisure Manager (Recreation and Sport) 1
Home Affairs Bureau

Clerk in attendance : Ms Joanne MAK
Chief Council Secretary (2) 3

Staff in attendance : Mr Richard WONG
Senior Council Secretary (2) 6

Mrs Fonny TSANG
Legislative Assistant (2) 3

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I. Information papers issued since the last meeting
[LC Paper No. CB(2)1663/17-18(01)]

Members noted Ms Tanya CHAN's letter dated 21 June 2018 proposing to request the Research Office of the Legislative Council ("LegCo") Secretariat to conduct a research study on the regulatory regime of home-stay lodgings in selected places. Mr YIU Si-wing said that the Panel might wish to take into consideration that the Administration was planning to introduce the Hotel and Guesthouse Accommodation (Amendment) Bill 2018 into LegCo in the following month. Ms Tanya CHAN, however, considered that there was no clash between the two issues as the proposed research study only aimed to enable Members to have a more thorough understanding of the subject.

Clerk 2. Members agreed that Ms CHAN's letter would be forwarded to the Research Office for preparation of a preliminary draft outline of the proposed study, as appropriate, for further consideration by the Panel.

II. Items for discussion at the next meeting
[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1635/17-18(01) and (02)]

3. The Panel agreed to discuss the following items proposed by the Administration at the next regular meeting:

- (a) Hong Kong Football Association Five-Year Strategic Plan – mid-term review; and

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- (b) use of public open space managed by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department.

4. Members agreed that the next regular meeting originally scheduled for 18 July 2018 at 10:45 am would be rescheduled for 20 July 2018 at 10:45 am to avoid clashing with an additional meeting of the Finance Committee scheduled for the same day.

III. Community Care Fund

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1622/17-18(01) and CB(2)1635/17-18(03)]

5. The Chairperson of the Community Care Fund Task Force ("C of CCF Task Force") briefed members on the salient points of the Administration's paper [LC Paper No. CB(2)1622/17-18(01)]. Referring to paragraph 5 of the Administration's paper, C of CCF Task Force updated members that the Community Care Fund ("CCF") had, in fact, launched a total of 47 assistance programmes, including the "Pilot scheme on subsidy for purchasing and constructing modular housing" ("the Modular Housing Pilot Scheme") which was endorsed by the Commission on Poverty ("CoP") on 21 June 2018.

Discussion

Subsidy for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance recipients living in rented private housing

6. Mr LUK Chung-hung asked whether the Administration had evaluated the impact of the "Subsidy for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance ('CSSA') recipients living in rented private housing ('RPH') and paying a rent exceeding the maximum rent allowance ('MRA') under the CSSA Scheme" ("Subsidy for CSSA Recipients Living in RPH") on the rent levels in RPH. Dr Fernando CHEUNG considered that the Subsidy for CSSA Recipients Living in RPH should be regularized to relieve the financial difficulties encountered by the target recipients.

7. C of CCF Task Force said that he did not see any impact that the Subsidy for CSSA Recipients Living in RPH would have on the rent levels in RPH and there was no plan to conduct an evaluation in this regard. He further explained that there were over 40% of CSSA recipients paying rents which exceeded MRA under the CSSA Scheme. The Subsidy for CSSA

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Recipients Living in RPH had set the monthly subsidy amount at 50% of the portion of the rental amount exceeding the applicable MRA or 15% of the applicable MRA, whichever is the less, to relieve the financial burden of the CSSA recipients concerned. CCF would review this arrangement when the pilot scheme on the subsidy was completed. In response to Mr LUK's further enquiry, C of CCF Task Force advised that CCF/the Administration had no plan to provide rent subsidies to those who were on the waiting list for public rental housing but did not receive CSSA.

8. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen enquired about the Transport and Housing Bureau's ("THB") role in the Modular Housing Pilot Scheme and its implementation after the relevant construction works were completed. C of CCF Task Force said that as mentioned in the 2017 Policy Address, the Administration had sought to increase the supply of transitional housing, including supporting non-profit-making organizations to explore the feasibility of constructing pre-fabricated modular housing on idle sites. To this end, THB, in collaboration with the Labour and Welfare Bureau ("LWB") and the Development Bureau, had taken forward a proposal submitted by the Hong Kong Council of Social Service ("HKCSS") to implement its Modular Social Housing Scheme at the Nam Cheong Street site to cater for those residing in unfit dwellings. The Under Secretary for Transport and Housing ("USTH") advised that THB had all along provided policy support and advice to HKCSS on the project and would render administrative and accounting support once the Modular Housing Pilot Scheme had been rolled out. He added that the site concerned had been leased to HKCSS by the property developer owning the site for a token fee of \$1. The construction works of the modular housing were expected to commence by the end of this year and be completed next year.

9. C of CCF Task Force further said that the modular housing units purchased and constructed under the Modular Housing Pilot Scheme would be owned by HKCSS and were expected to last for 30 to 50 years to be recycled for use at other sites in the future. Mr SHIU Ka-chun and Dr Fernando CHEUNG questioned why the Modular Housing Pilot Scheme was not, instead, supported by the Lotteries Fund which had supported similar projects in the past. C of CCF Task Force explained that the Lotteries Fund aimed at financing social welfare services, whereas CCF aimed at plugging gaps in the existing system in any policy area.

10. Mr YIU Si-wing asked whether it would be for the Administration, CCF Task Force or a non-governmental organization ("NGO") to initiate

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another modular housing project if the Modular Housing Pilot Scheme proved to be popular. Mr YIU, Mr Tony TSE and Mr LAU Kwok-fan took the view that the Administration/CCF should make available more information on how to initiate new modular housing projects and other assistance programmes. Mr Vincent CHENG suggested that the Administration should identify more suitable sites for development of modular housing and make an effort to encourage NGOs and property developers to propose more similar schemes.

11. C of CCF Task Force said that CCF welcomed any proposals/suggestions on new assistance programmes from various organizations. If any interested NGOs had concrete proposals to develop any sites, they could approach the relevant government departments for assistance. USTH said that to facilitate NGOs to use vacant government sites and school premises through short-term tenancies, the Administration announced in the 2018-2019 Budget that \$1 billion would be set aside for this purpose.

Subsidies of drug costs

12. With reference to paragraph 10 of the Administration's paper, the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman enquired about the criteria for selecting new drugs to be covered in the first phase programme of medical assistance programmes and the programme of Subsidy for eligible patients to purchase ultra-expensive drugs (including those for treating uncommon disorders). The Chairman also enquired about the costs for introducing the three new drugs (i.e., Nivolumab, Obinutuzumab and Nusinersen) under these drug subsidy programmes, and whether measures would be taken to shorten the lead time for the introduction of new drugs under these programmes.

13. C of CCF Task Force advised that new drugs were selected for coverage by CCF's drug subsidy programmes based on expert advice from medical professionals of the Hospital Authority ("HA") and their clinical experience. The Chief Manager (Allied Health) of HA said that from 2018 onwards, the frequency of reviewing the drugs supported by the CCF medical assistance programmes had been increased from once to twice a year, so as to shorten the lead time for introduction of new drugs to the safety net coverage. She said that the three aforementioned new drugs were expected to be introduced by the end of 2018, and the information on the costs for subsidizing the three drugs would be provided to the Panel once available. She added that such costs would not form part of the

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\$500 million earmarked in the 2018-2019 Budget for extending the scope of the programme to subsidise individual patients with special clinical needs in using specific drugs.

[Post-meeting note: The supplementary information provided by the Administration was issued to members on 11 September 2018 vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1997/17-18(01).

14. Dr Fernando CHEUNG enquired if the Administration had plans to change the scope of the Samaritan Fund ("SF") safety net system to cover the self-financed drugs currently covered by CCF medical assistance programmes, while the costs for cancer drugs and ultra-expensive drugs could be subsidized by a separate mechanism. C of CCF Task Force explained that CCF medical assistance programmes covered, among other things, specified self-financed drugs which had not yet been covered by the SF safety net but had been rapidly accumulating medical scientific evidence and with relatively higher efficacy. Meanwhile, the drugs proved to be of significant clinical benefits but are very expensive for HA to provide as part of its standard services would be included in the HA Drug Formulary as Self-financed Item, and HA would provide a safety net through SF to subsidise the drug expenses of patients with financial difficulties.

Elderly dental assistance

15. Noting that the target beneficiaries of the Elderly Dental Assistance ("EDA") Programme had been further expanded to elders who were Old Age Living Allowance recipients aged 70 or above, Mr LUK Chung-hung considered that CCF should further lower the relevant age limit to 65 so that more needy elders could benefit. Mr Holden CHOW also took a similar view. Dr Fernando CHEUNG considered that the EDA Programme had been implemented for some years and should be regularized.

16. C of CCF Task Force advised that the Food and Health Bureau was currently conducting a review of the EDA programme which was expected to be completed within the next few months. Meanwhile, CoP had already endorsed the extension of the EDA Programme to the end of February 2019. C of CCF Task Force reiterated that the EDA Programme aimed to subsidize the needy elders with low-income for dentures and other related necessary dental services, but not for general dental care services.

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Pilot scheme on living allowance for carers of elderly persons from low-income families

17. Regarding the "Pilot scheme on living allowance for carers of elderly persons from low-income families", Mr LEUNG Che-cheung suggested that CCF should relax the eligibility criteria. C of CCF Task Force explained that the main objective of the pilot scheme was to provide eligible carers with a living allowance to help supplement their living expenses. The eligibility criteria applicable to the carers were detailed in the Annex to the Administration's paper. CoP endorsed on 21 June 2018 the implementation of Phase III of the above pilot scheme for a period of two years from October 2018 to September 2020. In the meantime, the Administration would review the way forward of the pilot scheme. In response to Mr LEUNG's further enquiry, the Assistant Director (Family and Child Welfare) of the Social Welfare Department ("AD (FCW)/SWD") advised that about 4 000 eligible carers had benefited from Phase I and Phase II of the above pilot scheme.

Provision of subsidy to needy primary and secondary students for purchasing mobile computer devices to facilitate the practice of e-learning

18. Noting that CoP had endorsed to implement the "Provision of subsidy to needy primary and secondary students for purchasing mobile computer devices to facilitate the practice of e-learning" programme starting from the 2018-2019 school year, Mr IP Kin-yuen enquired how CCF came up with the expected number of beneficiaries of about 102 000 students, which was about 40% of the students of public sector primary and secondary schools and receiving CSSA or grants under the School Textbook Assistance Scheme.

19. The Deputy Secretary for Education (6) replied that the estimate was based on the expected increase in the number of eligible students, and in the number of schools implementing e-learning and adopting "Bring Your Own Device" over the three school years during which the programme would be implemented.

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Suggestions on CCF assistance programmes and review of CCF Task Force

20. Noting that CoP approved in September 2016 to extend the implementation of the programme, namely "Special care subsidy for the severely disabled" for disabled persons aged below 60 who are non-CSSA recipients requiring constant attendance and living in the community for a maximum of 24 months, Dr Fernando CHEUNG considered the programme should be further extended beyond September 2018 and the upper age limit of 60 be reviewed.

21. Mr Vincent CHENG suggested that the Administration/CCF should consider subsidising children from poor families to attend summer learning courses to enable these children to make better use of the summer holidays. Mr IP Kin-yuen also took the view that CCF should considering providing subsidies to needy children for participating in extra-curricular activities. AD (FCW)/SWD advised that at present, with the support of the Direct Cash Assistance, needy children were receiving subsidy to attend extra-curricular activities.

22. Mr Holden CHOW expressed concern about the long waiting time for child assessment service in public medical institutions for children with developmental problems. C of CCF Task Force said that while the Department of Health had been seeking ways to reduce the waiting time for child assessment service by, for example, trying to open more child assessment centres, it was experiencing a shortage of medical staff caused by recruitment difficulties. In reply to Mr CHOW, C of CCF Task Force said that CCF had no plan to provide subsidies for the procurement of such assessment service in the private medical sector.

IV. Major Sports Events Matching Grant Scheme and District Sports Programmes Funding Scheme

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1635/17-18(04) and (05)]

23. The Secretary for Home Affairs ("SHA") briefed members on the salient points of the Administration's paper [LC Paper No. CB(2)1635/17-18(04)].

Discussion

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Major Sports Events Matching Grant Scheme

24. Members generally welcomed the proposed funding allocation to the new Major Sports Events Matching Grant Scheme ("the Matching Grant Scheme"). Mr LAU Kwok-fan and the Chairman took the view that the Administration should seek ways to encourage the private and business sectors to provide sponsorships to national sports associations ("NSAs") for hosting major sports events, such as by offering tax concessions to businesses providing sponsorships.

25. SHA and the Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (Recreation and Sport) 2 ("PASHA (R & S)2") said that NSAs organizing major sports events had their own established procedures in place for handling sponsorships from the commercial or private sector. Besides, the Core Sponsor Group under the Major Sports Events Committee of the Sports Commission provided a platform for commercial organizations to show their support to the major sports events held in Hong Kong. PASHA (R & S)2 added that the costs of corporate sponsorships could be considered as expenses for the purpose of tax deduction.

26. Noting that only a total of \$15.99 million cash grant was approved to support five of the 13 "M" Mark events in 2017, Mr CHAN Chi-chuen and Mr IP Kin-yuen questioned whether the proposed amount of allocation (i.e. \$500 million for five years) was justified and realistic. The Chairman enquired why funding support was not required for the remaining eight "M" Mark events in 2017.

27. PASHA (R & S)2 explained that the Administration had come up with the proposed amount of \$500 million after consulting "M" Mark event organizers. The proposed allocation would be sufficient to meet the expenditure required for hosting existing and new major events and exhibition matches under the Matching Grant Scheme in the coming five years. The proposals to raise the ceiling of the matching fund and to expand the funding scope were also considered. The Administration would review the need to further enhance the Matching Grant Scheme in the light of its effectiveness. As regards the "M" Mark events held in 2017, PASHA (R & S)2 said that the eight "M" Mark events which were not provided with funding support were self-sustainable and some of them had, in fact, recorded surpluses. At Mr CHAN's request, PASHA (R & S)2 undertook to provide information on the numbers of total and rejected applications for cash grants under the "M" Mark System in 2017, and the respective reasons for the rejections.

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28. Noting the proposal that the funding scope of the "M" Mark System would be expanded to cover exhibition matches organized by NSAs, Mr IP Kin-yuen asked how the Administration would guarantee that the athletes or teams involved in the matches concerned were genuinely world-class. PASHA (R & S)2 said that the funding support would be disbursed by instalments subject to the meeting of certain targets including the world ranking of the athletes/teams concerned and the number of paid admissions attracted by the matches.

29. Mr Vincent CHENG asked whether the "M" Mark System would include other sports such as curling and ice hockey, which might not have generated much public interest yet. Mr YIU Si-wing suggested that funding support/matching grants should be provided for NGOs to host sports events even at smaller scales so as to further promote sports in the community. He enquired whether the Hong Kong Dragon and Lion Dance Festival could be categorized as an "M" Mark event. The Chairman also considered that the Administration should render funding support to sports events at smaller scales. He raised concern that certain sports might not be eligible for funding support for hosting major events, as some sports associations might not be properly recognized because they were not member NSAs of the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China ("SF&OC"), or if a particular sport was represented by more than one sport association.

30. PASHA (R & S)2 said that the "M" Mark System aimed to support NSAs in developing sustainable major sports events, as well as securing and hosting one-off international sports events. The "M" Mark status was granted subject to vetting criteria such as the competition level and significance of the event to the world sports calendar. For sports event of smaller scales, the Administration rendered support to NSAs under the Local International Events and Major Local International Events Schemes.

District Sports Programmes Funding Scheme

31. While welcoming the proposed funding allocation of \$100 million to the District Sports Programmes Funding Scheme ("the Funding Scheme"), Mr LAU Kwok-fan and the Chairman expressed concern that the amount might not be sufficient for all the district sports associations ("DSAs") in Hong Kong to organize multiple sport programmes for five years. The Chairman also suggested that the procedure for DSAs to apply for funding

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support under the Funding Scheme should be simplified. With reference to paragraph 16 of the Administration's paper, Mr CHAN Chi-chuen questioned if sport programmes such as sports fun days would effectively encourage more people to regularly participate in sports activities.

32. SHA said that the Funding Scheme was intended to provide support for DSAs to organize new sports programmes or expand the scale of existing programmes to promote sports in the community, which also included squad training covering a wide variety of sports that would help identify young athletes with potential. PASHA (R & S)1 said that the application procedure of the Funding Scheme needed to strike a reasonable balance between ensuring the proper use of public money and ease of application. The Administration would consult DSAs and other stakeholders on the implementation details, including the proposed application procedure in the coming months.

33. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen and Mr Vincent CHENG urged the Administration to address the shortage of sports facilities in Hong Kong. SHA and PASHA (R & S)2 said that the Administration had been pressing ahead with the Five-year Plan to launch 26 projects to develop new or improve existing sports and recreational facilities in different districts. Moreover, technical feasibility study for another 15 sports and recreation facility projects would be conducted to prepare for their implementation. Besides, since the 2017-2018 school year, public sector schools had further opened up their facilities to sports organizations under the Opening up School Facilities for Promotion of Sports Development Scheme jointly implemented by the Education Bureau and Home Affairs Bureau, benefiting some 1 200 participants. Furthermore, the Kai Tak Sport Park would provide venues for the community and for hosting major sports events.

34. Summing up, the Chairman said that members did not object to the submission of the funding proposals under the Matching Grant Scheme and the Funding Scheme to the Finance Committee for consideration.

V. Any other business

35. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:19 am.