

立法會
Legislative Council

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LC Paper No. CB(2)296/19-20

(These minutes have been
seen by the Administration)

Panel on Home Affairs

Minutes of meeting
held on Monday, 27 May 2019, at 8:30 am
in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex

Members present : Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP (Chairman)
Hon AU Nok-hin (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Claudia MO
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin, BBS
Hon YIU Si-wing, BBS
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, SBS, JP
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Hon IP Kin-yuen
Hon Alvin YEUNG
Hon Jimmy NG Wing-ka, JP
Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP
Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding
Hon SHIU Ka-fai
Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH
Dr Hon Pierre CHAN
Hon LUK Chung-hung, JP
Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH
Hon KWONG Chun-yu
Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun, MH
Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS

Members absent : Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP
Hon Andrew WAN Siu-kin
Hon CHU Hoi-dick
Hon SHIU Ka-chun
Hon Tanya CHAN
Hon YUNG Hoi-yan
Hon HUI Chi-fung
Hon Kenneth LAU Ip-keung, BBS, MH, JP

Public Officers : Item IV
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)

Ms Carmen KONG
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (Civic
Affairs) 2

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

Mr Norris YEUNG King-lok
Senior Project Manager 1
Transport and Housing Bureau

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

Ms Ivis CHUNG
Chief Manager (Allied Health)
Hospital Authority

Item V

Mr LAU Kong-wah, JP
Secretary for Home Affairs

Mr YEUNG Tak-keung, JP
Commissioner for Sports
Home Affairs Bureau

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

Ms Rebecca LOU Wai-yi
Assistant Director (Leisure Services) 2
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

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

Staff in attendance : Miss Connie AU
Senior Council Secretary (2) 6

Ms Meisy KWOK
Legislative Assistant (2) 6

Action

I. Late application for membership

[LC Paper No. CB(2)1436/18-19(01)]

Members raised no objection to Mr Alvin YEUNG's application for late membership. The Chairman said that the application was accepted.

II. Information paper(s) issued since the last meeting

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1375/18-19(01), CB(2)1419/18-19 and CB(2)1480/18-19(01)]

2. Members noted that the following papers had been issued after the last meeting:

- (a) letter dated 30 April 2019 from Hon Wilson OR;
- (b) Electoral Affairs Commission Report on the 2019 Rural Ordinary Election; and
- (c) Administration's response to the letter dated 30 April 2019 from Hon Wilson OR.

III. Items for discussion at the next meeting

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1500/18-19(01) and (02)]

3. The Panel agreed to discuss the following items proposed by the Administration at the next regular meeting on 24 June 2019 at 8:30 am:

- (a) youth development work; and
- (b) licensing regime proposed by the Property Management Services Authority.

Action

(Post-meeting note: Members were informed vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1681/18-19 on 19 June 2019 that at the request of the Administration and with the concurrence of the Chairman, the agenda item "Youth development work" was replaced by "Proposed injection into the Hong Kong Athletes Fund".)

IV. The Community Care Fund

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1500/18-19(03) and (04)]

4. At the invitation of the Chairman, 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)1500/18-19(03)]. C of CCF Task Force said that the CCF Task Force was exploring the launch of a pilot assistance programme to improve the living environment of low-income sub-divided unit households ("the proposed programme") at an estimated expenditure of \$287.04 million.

Discussion

Proposed assistance programme to improve the living environment of low-income households residing in sub-divided units ("SDUs")

5. Members in general expressed support for the proposed programme. Mr Vincent CHENG considered it inappropriate to impose the same upper subsidy limit of \$10,000 on SDU households of two persons or more. He suggested that consideration might be given to introducing a tiered upper subsidy limits for SDU households of different sizes. Mr Christopher CHEUNG expressed concern about the small difference in the upper subsidy limits for 1-person households (\$8,500) and for 2-or-more-person households (\$10,000). Mr CHAN Chi-chuen considered it unnecessary to prescribe an upper subsidy limit as the amount of subsidy for individual SDU households should be based on their actual needs.

6. C of CCF Task Force explained that the proposed programme aimed to provide one-off in-kind subsidy to low-income SDU households to improve their living environment through carrying out minor improvement/repair works, purchasing furniture and household goods as well as pest control services, etc. Two-tier subsidy limits were initially proposed having regard to the general circumstances of SDUs and the fact that their sizes did not vary much. C of CCF Task Force said that the Hong Kong Council of Social Service ("HKCSS") had discussed with a number of

Action

related non-governmental organizations ("NGOs") in coming up with the proposed programme and considered that the proposed upper subsidy limits would be sufficient to serve the purpose.

7. Mr YIU Si-wing enquired about the implementation details of the proposed programme, and how the number of beneficiaries for this 2-year programme (i.e., 24 000 households) was set. Mr KWONG Chun-yu and the Deputy Chairman considered that more SDU households should be covered under the proposed programme. C of CCF Task Force responded that the proposed programme would be implemented by the Social Welfare Department ("SWD"). HKCSS was proposed to be entrusted as the approved service provider to partner with NGOs as agents to assist in the implementation. NGOs would process the applications by vetting the applicants' eligibility, conducting home visits for assessing their living environment and their needs for improvement items, and placing orders for the needed items for eligible households with reference to the items on the prescribed checklist. According to the preliminary discussion with the NGOs concerned, it was estimated that the NGOs could provide the aforesaid service to 24 000 households at most in two years. C of CCF Task Force added that appropriate adjustments to the programme could be made where necessary.

8. Mr KWONG Chun-yu and Mr LUK Chung-hung enquired about the eligibility criteria of the proposed programme. Mr Vincent CHENG said that the application procedures should be kept simple and CCF should put in place measures to facilitate elderly people, especially those living in old districts, to apply. C of CCF Task Force responded that details of the proposed programme had yet to be worked out. He said that generally speaking, eligible applicants should have either passed the household-based means test establishing eligibility for assistance schemes like the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme or the School Textbook Assistance Scheme; or have a household income limit at 75% of the Median Monthly Domestic Household Income. C of CCF Task Force further said that the application procedures would be streamlined as far as possible. Moreover, participating NGOs would assist elderly SDU households with their applications where necessary.

9. Mr Tony TSE and the Chairman were of the view that the funding scope should be flexible enough to cater for the different needs of SDU households. Dr Fernando CHEUNG and Mr LUK Chung-hung expressed concern that the proposed funding scope (i.e. minor improvement/repair works, purchasing furniture and household goods as well as pest

Action

control services) might not be equally suitable for all SDU households. They suggested that consideration should be given to allowing eligible households to use the subsidy on any other items/services to meet their specific needs. Dr CHEUNG asked if street sleepers would be eligible to participate in the proposed programme.

10. C of CCF Task Force explained that the proposed programme aimed to help SDU households to improve their living environment. It was not a cash-based programme and all items/services to be funded by the proposed programme would be procured by the participating NGOs for the SDU households concerned. The proposed programme also aimed to help the SDU households connect with community resources and acquire appropriate support. NGOs would mobilize volunteers to provide necessary assistance to and support for the needy households. C of CCF Task Force said that a balance had to be struck between flexibility in meeting the needs of SDU households and prudent use of public funds. In response to members' enquiry, C of CCF Task Force said that the administrative cost for the CCF programmes was about 5% of the estimated disbursement on average. The total estimated expenditure of the proposed programme was \$287.04 million, which included the administrative cost incurred to implementing agencies.

11. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen considered that the proposed programme could not address the problem faced by SDU households at its root. He and Mr Christopher CHEUNG were of the view that the Administration should consider providing rent subsidy to tenants. C of CCF Task Force said that the provision of rent subsidy to tenants might prompt the landlords to increase rent, thereby indirectly turning the rent subsidy into additional rent, and leaving the tenants with no effective assistance. The Deputy Chairman, however, pointed out that CCF had also implemented cash-based programmes in the past for low-income households not living in public housing. C of CCF Task Force explained that cash-based programmes launched in the past were mainly short-term relief measures to plug gaps in the existing system. He pointed out that the proposed programme was intended to bring about improvements to the living environment of SDUs for direct benefit of the households concerned.

Subsidy for Eligible Patients to Purchase Ultra-expensive Drugs (including those for treating uncommon disorders)

12. With reference to item 16 of the Annex to the Administration's paper, Mr Alvin YEUNG expressed concern that only 23 person-times had benefited from the "Subsidy for Eligible Patients to Purchase

Action

Ultra-expensive Drugs (including those for treating uncommon disorders)" programme ("the Programme") since its launch in August 2017. He asked if that was due to a lack of publicity about the Programme. He was also concerned if the funding provision (\$203.44 million) was sufficient in view of the high subsidy per case. C of CCF Task Force responded that the number of beneficiaries would depend on the number of needy patients who met the specified clinical criteria. If the funding provision was inadequate to meet demands, the Hospital Authority would submit proposals to the CCF Task Force to apply for additional funding. In response to Mr YEUNG's further enquiry, C of CCF Task Force said that there was no overlapping in the drug supported by the Samaritan Fund and the Programme, and the attending doctor or medical social worker would assist needy patients with their applications.

13. Mr Wilson OR said that the number of beneficiaries of a few other CCF programmes was also on the low side and he was concerned if the eligibility criteria were overly strict. He hoped that the application procedures could be kept simple to benefit those in need. C of CCF Task Force responded that the eligibility criteria of different CCF programmes varied and the application procedures would be streamlined as far as possible.

Pilot Scheme on Relaxing the Household Income Limit of the Fee-waiving Subsidy Scheme under the After School Care Programme for Low-income Families and Increasing Fee-waiving Subsidy Places

14. Mr Wilson OR suggested that the target beneficiaries of the Pilot Scheme on Relaxing the Household Income Limit of the Fee-waiving Subsidy Scheme under the After School Care Programme for Low-income Families and Increasing Fee-waiving Subsidy Places should be extended to pre-primary children under the age of six so as to facilitate their parents to join the labour force. C of CCF Task Force responded that as announced in the 2018 Policy Address, the Administration would introduce measures to provide assistance to pre-primary children and their families with welfare needs.

Motion

15. After discussion, Mr Vincent CHENG moved the following motion which was seconded by Mr Wilson OR and Mr LAU Kwok-fan:

Action

(Translation)

"This Panel urges that in providing subsidy under the Community Care Fund to low-income households residing in sub-divided units ("SDU") to improve their living environment, the Government must streamline the application procedures and waive the asset test, so as to benefit more SDU households. Instead of setting the subsidy limits broadly on the basis of one-person households and households with two persons or more, the subsidy limits should be increased according to the household size. Besides, this Panel urges the authorities to provide rent allowance to public rental housing ("PRH") applicants living in rented private housing who have been on the waiting list for PRH for over three years and have passed the asset test."

16. The Chairman put the motion to vote. The voting result was that 12 members voted for the motion, no member voted against it and two members abstained from voting. The Chairman declared that the motion was passed.

(Post-meeting note: The Administration's response to the above motion was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1685/18-19(01) on 19 June 2019.)

V. Promotion of sports development in Hong Kong
[LC Paper No. CB(2)1500/18-19(05)]

17. At the invitation of the Chairman, the Secretary for Home Affairs ("SHA") briefed members on the salient points of the Administration's paper [LC Paper No. CB(2)1500/18-19(05)].

Discussion

Development of football in Hong Kong

18. Mr LAU Kwok-fan said that in recent years, district football teams had outstanding performances in the Hong Kong Premier League ("HKPL") matches. He suggested that the Administration should enhance the support for district football teams to facilitate their development. The Deputy Chairman said that some footballers had commented that artificial turf pitches were not suitable for playing football. He suggested that the Administration should consider setting up an advisory body to advise on matters relating to the management of football pitches.

Action

The Deputy Chairman enquired about the progress of establishing a Professional Footballers Association as recommended in the Hong Kong Football Association ("HKFA") Five-year Strategic Plan.

19. The Commissioner for Sports ("C for S") responded that the Administration had been providing financial support to district football teams to facilitate their development. He said that to enhance the sustainable development of local football clubs/teams, both HKPL and the football clubs/teams should identify ways to boost the public's interest in HKPL matches and attract more commercial sponsorship. C for S said that currently the Football Task Force ("FTF") under HAB, which comprised representatives from HKFA, the football community and other stakeholders, would provide advice on the development of football in Hong Kong and the provision of football facilities. C for S further said that while natural turf pitches were preferred by professional footballers, artificial turf pitches were suitable for general football playing. The Administration would try to assign more time slots of natural turf pitches for professional teams. C for S added that the recommendation of establishing the proposed Professional Footballers Association was being followed-up by HKFA.

20. Mr LUK Chung-hung declared that he was currently an honorary sponsor of the Yuen Long Football Club. Mr LAU Kwok-fan and Mr LUK shared the view that the Administration should launch a matching grant for football and other sports to promote cooperation between the Government and the private sector in the development of sports. Mr LAU enquired whether the Administration had taken forward the suggestion of granting of tax concession to business sponsorship for local football. C for S responded that the suggestion had been relayed to the relevant bureaux for consideration.

21. Mr LAU Kwok-fan, the Deputy Chairman and Mr LUK Chung-hung considered that the Administration should make arrangements for live broadcast of HKPL football matches and other major sports events on the Radio Television Hong Kong ("RTHK") to promote the public's interest in football and sports. C for S said that RTHK had gradually increased the broadcast of local sports events but priority would be given to those which were not broadcasted on other media such as inter-school sports competitions. C for S further said that HKFA had already made arrangements with a media organization for the broadcasting of HKPL matches.

Action

22. Dr Junius HO declared that he was an independent Director of HKFA. He considered that gambling on local football matches should be legalized to enhance the development of football in Hong Kong. SHA said that the Administration had no plan to legalize gambling on local football matches, as the Administration's policy stance was not to encourage gambling.

Clerk

23. The Chairman suggested and members agreed that the Panel would hold a meeting to receive views from members of the public on the development of football in Hong Kong.

Provision of sports facilities and lifeguard shortage

24. Mr LAU Kwok-fan expressed concern about the prevalence of touting activities related to leisure facilities and venues. He asked about the progress of developing the New Intelligent Sports and Recreation Services Booking and Information System, which would hopefully curb such activities. The Assistant Director (Leisure Services) 2 said that the new system would be implemented in phases. The target was to have all core functions of the system to be launched by 2021-2022, with self-service stations to be rolled out by 2022-2023 and other enhanced functions to be available by 2023-2024.

25. With the increasing popularity of new sports like balance bike and unicycle, the Chairman asked if the public could book LCSD venues for conducting these activities. Mr LUK Chung-hung suggested that the Administration should provide suitable permanent venues for District Sports Associations to hold community sports events and training. SHA said that the Administration was committed to increasing the provision of sports facilities of various types. Under the Five-Year Plan for Sports and Recreation Facilities, 26 projects would be launched and feasibility studies for 15 other projects would also be carried out. He added that the Home Affairs Bureau would also pursue more vigorously the "single site, multiple use" model in multi-storey development on government land in order to expedite the delivery of sports facilities.

26. Dr Junius HO said that there was a shortage of lifeguards in Hong Kong. While he noted that the Administration had provided a subvention of around \$5.4 million to the Hong Kong Life Saving Society in 2018-2019, he considered that additional resources should be allocated for promoting lifesaving not only as a sport but also as a career. C for S responded that to address the shortage of lifeguards to provide services at public swimming

Action

pools and gazetted beaches, 80 civil service lifeguard posts would be created in LCSD in 2019-2020. Besides, non-civil service contract seasonal lifeguards would be engaged to address the shortage during the swimming season.

Promoting sports in community

27. Mr Holden CHOW said that the Retired Athletes Transformation Programme should enable more secondary schools to employ retired athletes as School Sports Promotion Coordinators. C for S responded that the programme was well received by secondary schools and would be strengthened to enhance the performance level of sports at schools.

28. Dr Fernando CHEUNG asked whether there were adequate trainers to enable the extension of the outreach recreation and sports programmes to more workshops and centres for persons with disabilities ("PWDs"). C for S responded that the initial phase of the outreach programmes was well received and the Administration would extend the outreach programmes to about 10 workshops and centres for PWDs in 2019-2020. Meanwhile, the Administration would liaise with relevant disability "national sports associations" ("NSAs") including the Hong Kong Paralympic Committee & Sports Association for the Physically Disabled on the provision of training programmes for coaches with an aim to strengthen their knowledge and practical skills in providing training for PWDs on sports activities.

"M" Mark events

29. Mr YIU Si-wing declared that he was the Consultant of the Hong Kong Darts Federation. He said the darts sport had become increasingly popular in Hong Kong, and Hong Kong's darts athletes had won a lot of medals in various international competitions. He asked if the events hosted by the Federation could apply for the "M" Mark status. Pointing out that the local cricket teams had also achieved outstanding results in international competitions, Mr Holden CHOW asked if the Administration would provide support for the hosting of major cricket competitions in Hong Kong. C for S welcomed the relevant NSAs to make applications for support under the "M" mark scheme. He advised that both sports events accredited by the relevant international federations as well as exhibition matches or tournaments were eligible for consideration. He said that the Hong Kong Cricket Sixes organized by the Hong Kong Cricket Association in 2012 was an "M" Mark event and it was understood that the Hong Kong Cricket Association was planning to organize a similar event again. At the request

Action

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of Mr YIU, the Administration agreed to provide information on the size of local and overseas audience of "M" Mark events held in 2018 and the corresponding projected figures in 2019.

(Post-meeting note: The information provided by the Administration was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)20/19-20(01) on 17 October 2019.)

Selection of athletes for participation in international events

30. Mr Alvin YEUNG said that there were complaints in the past regarding the unfair selection of athletes by NSAs for participation in international sports events. He enquired about the measures in place to safeguard the fairness and transparency in the selection process. SHA said that NSAs had established criteria and guidelines for the selection of athletes for participation in international events. The Administration would not intervene with the selection process. However, NSAs were required to ensure that the selection mechanism and criteria were fair and transparent. If complaints were received regarding the selection, the Administration would investigate and follow up the matter with the NSAs concerned. Mr YEUNG said that the Administration should handle any complaints received promptly to ensure that no elite athletes would be deprived of the chance to participate in international events due to unfairness in the selection process.

(At 10:17 am, the Chairman directed that the meeting be extended by 15 minutes beyond the appointed ending time.)

Motions

31. After discussion, the Deputy Chairman moved the following motion:

(Translation)

"According to the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines, Hong Kong is currently in short of 16 sports centres and five sports grounds. Even though the Government has introduced the so called Five-Year Plan for Sports and Recreation Facilities, almost half of the projects under the plan are outstanding projects of the former Municipal Councils, which have been delayed for over 20 years. Such a situation only reflects that the Government's efficiency in building sports venues is extremely low. Moreover, despite the fact

Action

that resources are provided by the Government to the sports sector, it will be difficult to bring concrete improvement to sports development in the absence of a system and ancillary support. Taking the development of football as an example, since 2015, an annual subsidy of \$25 million has been earmarked for the Hong Kong Football Association to implement the Five-Year Strategic Plan, but the plan falls far short of expectations. In this connection, I move that a public hearing be held by this Panel to allow the public to express their views on issues relating to the sports development in Hong Kong."

32. The Chairman put the motion to vote. The voting result was that eight members voted for the motion, no member voted against it and two members abstained from voting. The Chairman declared that the motion was passed.

(Post-meeting note: The Administration's response to the above motion was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1830/18-19(01) on 23 July 2019.)

33. Mr LUK Chung-hung moved the following motion:

(Translation)

"To encourage sponsorships for local sports from the business and private sectors, this Panel requests the Government to introduce tax concessions (such as doubling the tax deduction up to a certain amount) and promote cooperation between the Government and the business sector through the launch of a matching grant."

34. The Chairman put the motion to vote. The voting result was that eight members voted for the motion, no member voted against it and two members abstained from voting. The Chairman declared that the motion was passed.

(Post-meeting note: The Administration's response to the above motion was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1830/18-19(01) on 23 July 2019.)

Action

VI. Any other business

35. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:39 am.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
28 November 2019