

# 立法會 *Legislative Council*

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## **Panel on Welfare Services**

**Background brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat for the meeting on 11 May 2020**

### **Social welfare support provided at community housing after its completion**

#### **Purpose**

This paper gives a brief account of past discussions of the Panel on Welfare Services on social welfare support provided at community housing after its completion.

#### **Background**

##### Community housing projects

2. The Community Housing Movement ("CHM") was launched by the Hong Kong Council of Social Service ("HKCSS") in October 2017 to provide short-term accommodation and support services for individuals or families in need of transitional housing. This is achieved through soliciting idled or under-utilized private housing resources held by the Urban Renewal Authority, private developers or ordinary landlords. According to HKCSS, about 500 rental units will be made available to a total of about 1 000 beneficiary households under CHM. As at March 2019, there are seven service operators participating in CHM, providing about 220 rental units to needy families/single persons. Besides, various non-governmental organizations have implemented other community housing projects. Examples of such projects included HKCSS's Modular Social Housing Scheme at Nam Cheong Street in Sham Shui Po ("Sham Shui Po project"), Lok Sin Tong's project and Yan Chai Hospital's pilot scheme on social housing.

### Pilot Scheme on Relocation Allowance for Beneficiaries of the Community Housing Movement

3. According to the Administration, a three-year Pilot Scheme on Relocation Allowance for Beneficiaries of the Community Housing Movement ("the Pilot Scheme") was launched by the Community Care Fund ("CCF") in December 2017 to provide subsidy for households benefiting from CHM to pay for removal expenses. Under the Pilot Scheme, each eligible household will receive a one-off relocation allowance from the Social Welfare Department according to its household size. The amount of allowance is \$3,076 for a one-person household, \$7,028 for a two-to-three-person household and \$9,263 for a four-or-more-person household. The three-year Pilot Scheme is expected to benefit about 1 000 households. As at end of January 2019, a total of 210 applications were received under the Pilot Scheme, with 180 applications vetted to be eligible and the amount of allowance paid was about \$1.25 million in total.

### **Deliberations of members since 2017-2018 session**

#### Support services for tenants of community housing

4. Given that target beneficiaries of CHM were low-income households or those who had long been on the waiting list for public rental housing, members enquired whether the Administration would consider modelling on the Neighbourhood Level Community Development Project ("NLCDP") to provide social services for tenants of Sham Shui Po project and tenants of other modular housing projects in future.

5. The Administration advised that when NLCDP was first introduced, the planning standard of NLCDP was that one NLCDP team would be provided for deprived and transient communities (e.g. temporary housing areas and squatter areas) with a population of around 3 000. As there were only 90 beneficiary households under the Sham Shui Po project, the population size did not meet the aforesaid standard of NLCDP.

### Pilot Scheme on Relocation Allowance for Beneficiaries of the Community Housing Movement

6. Some members took the view that the number of families/individuals in need of the relocation allowance under the Pilot Scheme should be far more than 1 000. They called on the Administration to increase the quota

of the Pilot Scheme. The Administration advised that as only families/single persons benefiting from CHM were eligible to receive the relocation allowance under the Pilot Scheme, the number of applications for the Pilot Scheme was estimated according to the number of beneficiaries of CHM. If the number of applications received under the Pilot Scheme exceeded 1 000, the Administration would seek additional funding from CCF, if necessary.

7. Members enquired whether the Administration would expand the scope of the Pilot Scheme to cover beneficiaries of other community housing projects. The Administration responded that relevant requests might be submitted to the CCF Task Force for consideration.

8. In response to members' enquiries about the timetable for conducting the evaluation on the effectiveness of the Pilot Scheme and the scope of the evaluation, the Administration advised that the evaluation was expected to commence in 2020 and would cover, amongst others, the amount of allowance.

### **Relevant papers**

9. A list of the relevant papers on the Legislative Council website is in the **Appendix**.

Council Business Division 2  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
6 May 2020

## Appendix

### Relevant papers on social welfare support provided at community housing after its completion

Meeting	Date of meeting	Paper
Panel on Welfare Services	9 July 2018 (Item VI)	<a href="#">Agenda</a> <a href="#">Minutes</a>
	11 March 2019 (Item IV)	<a href="#">Agenda</a> <a href="#">Minutes</a>

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