

**Subcommittee on
Public Revenue Protection (Dutiable Commodities) Order 2011**

**List of follow-up actions arising from the discussion
at the meeting on 24 March 2011**

The Administration was requested to provide information on:

- (a) the current annual expenditure and staffing establishment for the work of smoking cessation services, and the estimated figures after the increase in tobacco duty in 2011;
- (b) the overall plan for enhancing smoking cessation services for youth, adult, women and elderly, and the details of such services (including locations and fees charged);
- (c) the details of the smoking cessation services to be provided by the Hospital Authority (HA) within the provision of \$19.6 million in 2011-2012;
- (d) the statistics of smoking cessation services (including clients served and cessation rates) provided by HA, the Department of Health and the relevant non-governmental organizations as well as the assessments made on the effectiveness of such services;
- (e) the comparison of the breakdown of the number of smokers by age group and gender before and after the increase in tobacco duty in 2009, and the expected changes in the figures after such an increase in 2011;
- (f) the comparison between Hong Kong and overseas economies on the figure of Gross Domestic Product in terms of US dollars according to purchasing power parity, the retail price of cigarettes, the proportion of tobacco duty to cigarette retail price, the figure on the recent increase in tobacco duty and the subsequent change in retail price, and the number of smokers before and after the increase;
- (g) the overall plan to enhance the enforcement against the smuggling and sale of illicit cigarettes, including the expenditure and manpower involved as well as measures to be taken;

- (h) whether the Administration had conducted any survey or research on the actual decrease in incomes of licensed newspaper hawkers as a result of the increase in tobacco duty in 2009, and the proposed measures to enhance the business opportunities of these hawkers following such an increase in 2011;
- (i) whether there was any adverse impact on the crime rate as a result of the increase in tobacco duty in 2009 and 2011;
- (j) the time frame for achieving the target for Hong Kong to become a smoke-free city; and
- (k) the rationale behind the policy of increasing duty rates on tobacco products on the one hand and exempting the duties on wine, beer and all other alcoholic beverages on the other, taking into account they were no less harmful than tobacco products to the society.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
1 April 2011