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Panel on Manpower

Information note prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat for the meeting on 18 November 2010

Setting up of a pioneer one-stop employment and training centre in Tin Shui Wai

According to the Administration, the Labour Department ("LD"), the Social Welfare Department ("SWD") and the Employees Retraining Board ("ERB") are playing different roles in rendering public-sector employment support. The Administration has decided to streamline, integrate and enhance employment services of these three bodies. The exercise would kick-start a long-term effort to rationalize the distribution of duties and responsibilities, and possibly the workflow as well as the user databases of LD, SWD and ERB.

- 2. At the briefing by the Secretary for Labour and Welfare on policy initiatives relevant to the Panel on Manpower in the Chief Executive's 2009-2010 Policy Address, the Administration informed members that given the complexity of the exercise, it was prudent to launch a pilot project before the one-stop model was widely applied. To this end, a pioneer one-stop employment and training centre would be set up in Tin Shui Wai. The pioneer centre would have the following special features
 - (a) job seekers' employment needs would be analyzed with a view to streaming them for targetted services, such as case management throughout their pathway to employment, personalized counselling, employment, training/retraining and post-placement support services tailored to their needs. Where appropriate, the one-stop shop would enrol job seekers in special employment programmes to enhance their employability;
 - (b) employment assistance for unemployed able-bodied Comprehensive Social Security Assistance ("CSSA") recipients in the district would be progressively transferred from SWD to the one-stop service centre; and

- (c) to support the integrated service, an information system would be developed to enhance data-sharing among LD, SWD, ERB and concerned service providers.
- 3. The Administration anticipated that the one-stop shop would facilitate the delivery of training/retraining, job-matching, referral and counselling services for job seekers and, in particular, unemployed able-bodied CSSA recipients.
- 4. At the briefing by the Secretary for Labour and Welfare on policy initiatives relevant to the Panel on Manpower in the Chief Executive's 2010-2011 Policy Address, the Administration advised that the one-stop employment and training centre would be housed in the Amenity and Community Building in Tin Ching Estate in Tin Shui Wai, which was under construction. The Administration had embarked on the preparatory work for the establishment of the centre, including development of a comprehensive assessment tool for analyzing the employment needs of job seekers, design of an information system to facilitate data-sharing amongst LD, SWD, ERB and the relevant service providers, so as to support the proposed integrated service, and procurement of necessary equipment and facilities. The centre was expected to commence operation in mid-2011.

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