

**The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
of the People's Republic of China**

The Chief Executive's 2017 Policy Address

Policy Agenda

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Chapter 1

Policy Agenda

Introduction

Hong Kong's achievements today as a cosmopolitan city exemplify the precious fruits from the hard work of generations of enterprising Hong Kong people. To continue the success story of Hong Kong, we have to address the various issues affecting the development of our society as well as the problems that our younger generation face in pursuing their future.

The current-term Government believes in Hong Kong's sound foundation in the rule of law, liberty, institution, talent pool, etc. Twenty years since our return to the motherland, we have successfully implemented "one country, two systems" and are exercising a high degree of autonomy. While benefiting from the strength of "one country", we also enjoy the unique advantages of "two systems". The Government will, as always, make concerted efforts with the community to harness our opportunities, including those presented by our country's development, for creating a favourable business environment and enhancing our competitive edge. There are many livelihood issues in Hong Kong that need to be addressed. We are sure that we will scale new heights together as long as we regain confidence in our future and build consensus with an understanding and inclusive attitude.

Our vision is to build Hong Kong into an international metropolis with happiness and hope, and where the residents are assured of prosperity, justice, rule of law, safety, affluence, compassion and good governance. To achieve this, we need to unite the community in developing the economy, improving people's livelihood and promoting democracy, all for the creation of hope and more room for development for future generations. To accomplish "people-oriented" governance, the current-term Government "listens", "cares" and "acts", striving to connect with the public and accord priorities to their needs. We attach importance to "innovation", "interaction" and "collaboration" to address public aspirations more closely and to promote social harmony and reinforce public confidence in the Government. The new-term Government has introduced a new style of governance, created new roles for the Government and adopted a new fiscal philosophy in an effort to improve governance.

Our new style of governance is to encourage public participation and discussion during the formulation of policies; to recruit talent widely and on the basis of merit in selecting candidates to join the governing team and various statutory and advisory bodies; to increase the transparency of government information and data, including opening up more government data for social policy research and public participation in policy formulation; and to adopt an innovative approach to review and improve existing policies, based on objective research and evidence.

Traditionally, the Government acted as a public service provider and regulator. Its provision of services might not best meet public needs, and its regulation might create inconvenience for the business sector. In future, the Government will enhance its role as a facilitator. We will improve inter-departmental co-ordination and co-operation to provide "one-stop-shop" services and consultation to achieve policy goals for the benefit of our society. To promote the international status and

external relations of Hong Kong, the Government will take up the role of a promoter. Together with the relevant organisations and industry representatives, we will conduct “Government-to-Government” dialogues and facilitate people-to-people exchanges to strengthen Hong Kong’s links with the Mainland as well as overseas countries so as to elevate Hong Kong’s status as Asia’s international city and attract Mainland and international enterprises and talent to Hong Kong.

For boosting economic development and enhancing our competitiveness, the Government’s new fiscal philosophy aims to wisely use our accumulated surpluses to benefit the community by adopting forward-looking and strategic financial management principles, whilst ensuring the stability of our public finances. We believe that a proper and proactive fiscal philosophy is an important part of good governance.

This is the first Policy Agenda of the Fifth-term Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, setting out 251 new initiatives and 469 on-going initiatives to respond to social aspirations, improve people’s livelihood and promote sustainable economic development. We will continue our people-oriented governance and walk hand in hand with the people to build a better and more harmonious Hong Kong.

Chapter 2

Reinforcing Our Strengths, New Style of Governance

Preamble

Hong Kong has been rated the world's freest and most competitive economy for many years. Practising a simple, low tax regime, we do our utmost to maintain a favourable business environment. To further enhance our economic development and long-term competitiveness, we will adopt appropriate tax measures to support targeted industries and steer economic activities.

Hong Kong's international reputation is also built on our core values, including an independent judicial system, adherence to the rule of law, a highly efficient and clean government, pluralism and inclusiveness, freedom of expression and of the press, and a strong respect for human rights and liberty. We are committed to reinforcing these advantages to strengthen public confidence in the integrity and good governance of the Government. We will also strive to enhance communication with all parties, promote rational discussion and restore mutual trust in the community so as to create an enabling atmosphere for addressing deep-rooted social issues.

Judicial independence is the cornerstone of Hong Kong's success. We will continue to provide all necessary support for the Judiciary to ensure the effective, efficient and equitable administration of justice in Hong Kong.

In her Election Manifesto, the Chief Executive introduced the concepts of a new style of governance, new roles for government and a new

fiscal philosophy as the foundation for good governance. In earnest and standing united, the governing team will honour this vision for a more people-oriented governance.

Policy Initiatives

Reinforcing Our Strengths

Prevention of Bribery Ordinance

- Resolve as soon as possible those constitutional and legal issues pertinent to amending the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance to extend the scope of Sections 3 and 8 to cover the Chief Executive. (CSO) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

Political Reform

- Do the best to create a social climate conducive to taking forward political reform. (CMAB)

Archives Law

- Hold a positive attitude towards the enactment of an archives law. The Government will follow up on this after receiving from the Law Reform Commission the report that it will compile following extensive consultation. At the present stage, the Government will continue to enhance the records management work. (CSO) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

Judicial Independence

- Fully support and accommodate the resource requirements of the Judiciary. The Government is working with the Judiciary on the planned construction of a Judicial Complex for the High Court at the new Central Harbourfront, as well as a District Court Complex at Caroline Hill Road to house the District Court, the Family Court and the Lands Tribunal. This aims to address the long-term accommodation needs of courts at the High Court and District Court levels. (CSO/DEVB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

Injecting New Styles

A New Style of Governance

- Implement the “Self-recommendation Pilot Scheme” with youth as the initial target for recruitment, and designate advisory bodies in different policy areas as the first batch of committees for appointment of youth members recommended under the scheme. (HAB) (New Initiative)
- Increase the transparency of government information and data, including opening up more government data for social policy research and public engagement in policy formulation. (All bureaux) (New Initiative)

New Roles for the Government

Public Service Provider

- Provide services that are reliable, professional and cost-effective, making good use of technology and being people-oriented and business-friendly. Based on service users’ experience and needs, we will adopt a people-oriented and collaborative approach to design and improve the delivery of public service. (CSO) (New Initiative)

(Note): The other initiatives on Government’s new roles as Regulator, Facilitator and Promoter, e.g. one-stop services, promoting Mainland and external affairs, are set out in other Chapters.

New Fiscal Philosophy

New Direction for Taxation to Enhance Competitiveness

- Introduce tax concessions where appropriate to promote economic development and enhance Hong Kong's competitiveness in the long run. (FSTB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

Chapter 3

Diversified Economy, Better Jobs

Preamble

In the face of competition from global and neighbouring economies, worldwide economic slowdown and the rise of protectionism, Hong Kong is facing increasing challenges. We must strive for innovation to develop a high value-added and diversified economy, as well as capitalise on the opportunities presented by the national Belt and Road Initiative and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area (Bay Area) development for generating new impetus for the growth of those industries where we enjoy advantages.

The new-term Government will take the lead in co-ordinating the above efforts in a proactive manner and strengthen co-operation and trading partnership with the Belt and Road countries through promoting external relations and enhancing the network of our overseas Economic and Trade Offices. The Government will encourage industry participation with a view to riding on the emerging opportunities to foster a diversified economy. We need to actively participate in major national development plans and enhance collaboration and pool our strengths with Mainland provinces and municipalities, thus contributing to our country's development while seeking opportunities for Hong Kong. Such initiatives will not only further reinforce our position as an international financial, trading and shipping centre and a global aviation hub as well as an international legal and dispute resolution services centre in the Asia-Pacific region, but will create new opportunities for various enterprises and professional sectors, in particular young entrepreneurs and start-ups.

Regarding financial development, we will strengthen the protection of our monetary and financial systems and enhance our risk management and fund raising capacity. We will modernise the regulatory framework, encourage enterprises to enrich their financial products and businesses, and strike a better balance between market development and protection of account holders, customers and investors. We will enhance Hong Kong's position as a major platform of capital raising and financing as well as a financial services hub for Mainland and overseas enterprises by seizing the opportunities brought by the development of the Bay Area and the Belt and Road Initiative. We will also broaden and deepen our co-operation with the Mainland on this front and improve our market infrastructure.

Moreover, it is imperative for us to expand land resources on an on-going basis. This includes the provision of land and space for economic activities to accommodate commercial facilities and industrial developments with a view to maintaining economic development and creating job opportunities. We must continue to invest in world-class infrastructure to support sustainable economic growth and sharpen our competitive edge.

Innovation and technology is crucial to promoting social development, creating a diversified economy and boosting our competitiveness. We will capitalise on the opportunities arising from the development of the Bay Area to develop Hong Kong into an international innovation and technology hub, and make use of cross-sector collaboration to achieve the goal of shaping Hong Kong into a smart city for better city management and public services, and to enhance our quality of life. We will continue to be an active promoter and facilitator in providing quality hardware and software support so that stakeholders may develop and apply innovation and technology in a favourable environment. We will also strategically attract innovation and technology companies to set up their operations in Hong Kong,

thereby creating more quality job opportunities and facilitating the comprehensive and robust development of our economy.

Hong Kong relies on adequate and quality human resources to provide momentum for continued economic development. To tackle the challenges brought by an ageing population, the Government has introduced a series of initiatives to unleash the potential of the local labour force, enhance the quality of local talent and attract non-local talent. To harness the opportunities presented by the development of our country and Hong Kong, the Government will set up a new Commission for the Planning of Human Resources, to be chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, to undertake high-level co-ordination of human resources planning and development.

Policy Initiatives

Finance

Monetary Stability

- Risks and uncertainties in international monetary systems continue to rise. Geopolitical tensions and the pace of further normalisation of US monetary policy will affect global capital flows. As a small and extremely open economy, a stable and credible monetary system is crucial. The Linked Exchange Rate System or “The Peg” is the cornerstone of Hong Kong’s monetary stability, which underpins the strength of the Hong Kong economy. It continues to be in the best interest of Hong Kong for now and in the foreseeable future. We will continue to do our utmost to safeguard the sound structure of our monetary system and maintain the confidence that Hong Kong and the international community have in our monetary system. (FSTB)

Financial Safety

- Enhance the day-to-day communication among regulatory departments to facilitate timely updating of contingency plans for unforeseen financial events as well as exchange of financial safety analyses and relevant risk prevention measures; and make full use of the existing consultation mechanisms and introduce new channels as necessary to exchange ideas and strategies on financial safety with the industry. (FSTB)

- Amend the relevant legislation to improve the existing regulatory regime for listed entity auditors such that the regime will be independent from the audit profession and its disciplinary mechanism can be strengthened. This will help ensure the regime is benchmarked against the international standard and practice, and maintain the confidence of investors in Hong Kong's overall financial regulatory regime with regard to the capital market. (FSTB) (New Initiative)
- Assist the Insurance Authority in preparing for the implementation of a new licensing regime for insurance intermediaries to replace the existing self-regulatory regime. (FSTB)
- Prepare legislation for the implementation of a risk-based capital regime for the insurance industry, which aims to align Hong Kong's regulatory regime with international standards and make capital requirements more sensitive to the level of risk borne by insurance companies. (FSTB)
- Prepare legislation for the establishment of a policy holders' protection scheme for protecting policy holders' interests and stabilising the market in the event of insurer insolvency. (FSTB)
- Prepare legislation for the introduction of a statutory corporate rescue procedure and insolvent trading provisions to provide an option for companies in short-term financial difficulties to initiate the procedure with a view to reviving their business, instead of pursuing liquidation immediately to wind up the company. (FSTB)

Finance Serving the Economy

- Develop Hong Kong into a broader and deeper platform for fund raising to cater for the new economy. Co-operation with the financial sector will be strengthened to enhance the role of the financial market in serving the real economy and to bring regulatory and compliance processes up to international standards while facilitating business. Meanwhile, we will promote diversification of the financial industry and will also explore ways to augment the scope of qualified financial institutions in providing financial services to the Government. (FSTB)

International Financial Centre

- Enhance Hong Kong's position as a major platform of capital raising and financing as well as a financial services hub for Mainland and overseas enterprises by capitalising on the opportunities brought by the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area and the Belt and Road Initiative. (FSTB)
- Actively participate in the work of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank as a member, and leverage our status as an international financial centre and our capital market to support the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank's operation. (FSTB)
- Amend the Banking Ordinance to empower the Monetary Authority to prescribe recovery planning requirements and financial exposure limits for authorised institutions so as to strengthen the resilience of our banking system in accordance with the latest international standards on banking regulation. (FSTB) (New Initiative)

- Amend the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing (Financial Institutions) Ordinance to prescribe statutory customer due diligence and record-keeping requirements applicable to designated non-financial businesses and professions; and amend the Companies Ordinance to require companies incorporated in Hong Kong to maintain beneficial ownership information, to ensure that the regulatory framework of Hong Kong is in keeping with the international standards set by the Financial Action Task Force. (FSTB)

- Extend the application of the Multilateral Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters to Hong Kong by making legislative amendments so as to fulfil our international obligations, including automatic exchange of tax information with the relevant jurisdictions. Introduce a bill to implement measures to tackle base erosion and profit shifting of enterprises so as to meet international standards for enhancing tax transparency and preventing tax evasion. (FSTB)

- Reach out to all publicly listed companies and relevant professional bodies under the Ethics Promotion Programme for Listed Companies and organise training on ethical governance for company directors and related professionals, using case studies, tailor-made training packages and practical guide; and provide corruption prevention advice for these companies. (ICAC)

Offshore Renminbi Business Hub, International Asset Management Centre

- Apart from making better use of the existing Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) framework, we will seize the opportunities arising from the national strategies and promote Hong Kong as a financial services centre for Belt and Road projects. We will encourage long-term funds to invest in and finance Belt and Road infrastructure projects, promote Hong Kong's insurance and risk management platform to enterprises for cross-boundary business and investments, and enhance regional co-operation between Hong Kong and the Mainland. (CEDB/FSTB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Continue to enhance access to the Mainland market for Hong Kong financial institutions through the existing platform for co-operation between the two places, which includes exploring further relaxation of shareholding restrictions on Hong Kong financial institutions to set up various types of joint venture securities companies and increase in the number of such companies to be set up on the Mainland. (FSTB)
- Reinforce the status of Hong Kong as a global hub for offshore Renminbi (RMB) business: deepen our financial co-operation with the Mainland and mutual financial market access between the two places in order to enrich the variety of RMB-denominated financial products in Hong Kong; and enhance our market infrastructure and financial platforms, with a view to strengthening our RMB business links with overseas markets and promoting Hong Kong's offshore RMB business. (FSTB)

- Consolidate our leading role as an asset management centre in the Asia-Pacific region and promote a more comprehensive development of Hong Kong's fund and asset management industry. To enhance the competitiveness of Hong Kong's fund industry, the Government will work with the Legislative Council on its scrutiny of the legislation to implement the profits tax exemption arrangement and operational and procedural details for open-ended fund companies. The Government will also continue to promote mutual recognition of funds arrangements. (FSTB)

Training of Practitioners

- Continue to implement the three-year Pilot Programme to Enhance Talent Training for the Insurance Sector and the Asset and Wealth Management Sector through offering internship opportunities to graduates and university students, providing financial subsidies to practitioners to attend training courses and public education, with a view to enabling the community to have a better understanding of the two sectors to attract new entrants and enhancing the professionalism of existing practitioners. (FSTB)

Financial Leaders Forum

- Make use of the Financial Leaders Forum chaired by the Financial Secretary as a platform to deliberate on strategic and forward-looking proposals that are conducive to strengthening Hong Kong's position as an international financial centre and to keep track of the progress of government departments and other relevant organisations in implementing such proposals, with a view to enhancing monetary stability, financial safety and market quality. (FSTB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

Fostering Development of the Financial Services Industry

- Provide the Financial Services Development Council with additional resources to strengthen its capacity in conducting strategic studies, providing advice, fostering market development and nurturing talent, with a view to enhancing Hong Kong's competitiveness in the international financial market. (FSTB) (New Initiative)

Financial Innovation

- Encourage financial enterprises to keep abreast of the times and participate in financial innovation, including financial technology (Fintech). Financial regulators will make use of means such as "supervisory sandbox" to let financial institutions try out new Fintech applications so as to expedite the launch of new services. (FSTB) (New Initiative)
- Explore the feasibility of the Government issuing a green bond to promote the development of green finance and to demonstrate the Government's commitment to promote sustainable economic development. (FSTB/ENB) (New Initiative)

Shipping and Logistics

- To entrench Hong Kong's position as an international maritime centre amidst intense international competition, the Government will, through the Hong Kong Maritime and Port Board, work with the industry to formulate holistic strategies. These include exploring and implementing trade facilitation measures for the maritime industry, nurturing maritime talent through the Maritime and Aviation Training Fund, organising visits and promotions for better communication and collaboration with the Mainland and overseas economies, actively driving the development of our maritime industry and high-value-added maritime services (including marine insurance, maritime legal and arbitration services, ship finance, ship management and ship registration), as well as encouraging renowned overseas and Mainland maritime enterprises to set up presence in Hong Kong. (THB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Develop Hong Kong into an international arbitration centre for disputes arising from maritime businesses, and actively and extensively participate in maritime-related Belt and Road Initiative. (THB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- To strengthen the services of the Hong Kong Shipping Register, the Marine Department will deliver ship registration documents to overseas and Mainland shipowners through our overseas and Mainland Economic and Trade Offices, thereby enabling overseas ships to set sail promptly upon their registration with the register. (THB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- To explore with the industry the relaxation of the air draft restriction at Tsing Ma Bridge so as to facilitate the access of large container vessels to Hong Kong Port. (THB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

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- Progressively implement port enhancement measures to maintain the competitiveness of Hong Kong Port, including provision of additional terminal yard space and barge berths in phases to increase the container handling capacity of the Kwai Tsing Container Terminals and the better use of back-up land of the terminals. (THB)
 - Facilitate the provision of high value-added third-party logistics services in Hong Kong by continuing to work with the departments concerned to identify suitable sites for the development of modern logistics facilities. (THB)
 - Continue to actively assist the Airport Authority Hong Kong (AAHK) in implementing the Three-Runway System at the Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) and ensure the completion of Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge and Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (Hong Kong Section). Their ancillary facilities will also be fine-tuned. These initiatives will increase Hong Kong's air and land transport throughput, placing us in an advantageous position to embrace the business opportunities in shipping and logistics and to reinforce our status as an aviation hub and maritime centre. (THB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
 - Through the Aviation Development and Three-Runway System Advisory Committee gauge major stakeholders' views on matters relating to the implementation of the Three-Runway System and monitor the project implementation. (THB)
 - Continue to assist the AAHK in strengthening its corruption prevention regime for the tendering and administration of works and consultancy contracts for the development of the Three-Runway System. (ICAC)

- Enhance HKIA's runway capacity before the implementation of the Three-Runway System:
 - continue to closely collaborate with the Civil Aviation Administration of China in airspace management with a view to progressively achieving the target capacity of the Three-Runway System of the HKIA; and
 - continue to study and implement the latest air traffic management technologies so as to marginally enhance the capacity of the existing two runways of the HKIA to meet the imminent air traffic demand. (THB) (New Initiative)
- Enhance our air cargo handling capacity:
 - support the AAHK to further develop the South Cargo Precinct of the airport island to expand transshipment, cross-boundary logistics and delivery service and the handling capacity for high-value temperature-controlled goods in order to capture the opportunities brought by cross-boundary e-commerce. (THB) (New Initiative)
- Foster Hong Kong as an International Aviation Training Hub:
 - strengthen collaboration with international aviation organisations and institutions in training and capacity building with a view to enhancing civil aviation capacity and safety awareness in the region; and

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- the Hong Kong International Aviation Academy established by the AAHK aims to nurture local and regional talent in the aviation sector. Its first batch of courses was launched in April 2017. The academy has also entered into agreement with the French National School of Civil Aviation (Ecole Nationale de l'Aviation Civile) to jointly offer an air transport management programme, which is expected to commence at the end of this year. (THB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
 - Continue the work for establishing an air accident investigation authority under the Transport and Housing Bureau, which will be independent of the Civil Aviation Department, in order to comply with the new requirement of the International Civil Aviation Organization, ensuring impartiality in aircraft accident investigation. (THB)
 - An amendment to the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 112) was enacted by the Legislative Council in June 2017 to give profits tax concessions to qualifying aircraft lessors and qualifying aircraft leasing managers so as to attract companies to develop aircraft leasing business in Hong Kong. The Government will work with the trade to strengthen publicity and promote the development of aircraft leasing business. (THB)

Tourism, Hotel, Retail and Catering Industries

- Develop high value-added tourism, eco-tourism, cultural, heritage and creative tourism, etc. so as to attract tourists with different interests to visit and spend in Hong Kong; and keep upgrading tourism supporting facilities, as well as strengthening manpower training. (CEDB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

- Assist the travel trade in grasping the opportunities brought by the Belt and Road Initiative and the development plan for a city cluster in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area, including launching “multi-destination” tourism products, to attract more overnight visitors to Hong Kong. (CEDB) (New Initiative)
- Support the Hong Kong Tourism Board in its continued promotion work in target source markets, including the countries along the Belt and Road and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area cities. (CEDB)
- Take note of the issues that affect tourism, including regulation, manpower supply and supporting infrastructure, and appreciate the demand of the industry for the establishment of a Tourism Bureau. Pending further deliberation on re-organising the government structure, the Financial Secretary convened a high-level tourism co-ordinating meeting to strengthen the co-operation and co-ordination among bureaux and departments for achieving synergy in promoting the holistic development of the tourism industry. (CEDB) (New Initiative)
- Continue with the work for establishing the Travel Industry Authority and implementing a new regulatory framework for the travel sector. (CEDB)
- Host various types of world-class events to attract tourists and provide more leisure activities to upgrade the quality of life of the general public. The Government will make proactive efforts to attract more mega events and activities to be held in Hong Kong and the Government will serve as the facilitator and promoter to develop Hong Kong into a capital of international events. (CEDB) (New Initiative)

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- Maintain and enhance Hong Kong's role as a premier international convention, exhibition and sourcing centre. (CEDB) ([New Initiative](#))
 - Plan to construct a convention centre above the Exhibition Station of the Shatin to Central Link upon the latter's completion in 2021. (CEDB)
 - Continue to increase the number of free Wi-Fi hotspots across the territory through the "Wi-Fi Connected City" programme and other measures for the convenience of the local public as well as visitors. (ITB)

Professional Services

- Develop new markets for our professional services by extending our presence on the Mainland and along the Belt and Road. (CEDB) ([New Initiative](#))
- Proactively strive for more liberalisation measures for our professional services when forging trade agreements with the Mainland and overseas governments. At the same time, we will allocate more resources to promote Hong Kong as a platform for providing professional services and a centre for dispute resolution service for the Belt and Road countries. Through the CEPA framework and the upcoming development plan of the city cluster in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area, we will assist professional service companies in further opening up the Mainland market. (CEDB/DoJ/CMAB) ([New Initiative](#))

- Continue to discuss with the Mainland the mutual recognition of professional qualifications and deepening of co-operation between Hong Kong and Qianhai, Nansha and Hengqin, according to the Agreement on Economic and Technical Co-operation under CEPA signed on 28 June 2017. (DEVB)
- Continue to take forward the Professional Services Advancement Support Scheme to support projects undertaken by trade and industry organisations and professional bodies on exchanges, publicity and enhancement of professional standards, so as to assist Hong Kong's professional services sector in tapping business opportunities in external markets (including economies along the Belt and Road and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area). (CEDB)
- Drawing reference from the successful examples of Hong Kong's construction consultant companies participating in the country's foreign aid construction projects in Nepal and Cambodia, we will continue to pursue with the Ministry of Commerce for provision of further opportunities for Hong Kong's consultant companies to take part in more and different types of construction projects, and expansion of their scope of work by allowing them to perform "full-range" Hong Kong-style services from project planning to completion. (DEVB)

International Legal and Dispute Resolution Services Centre in the Asia-Pacific Region

- Enhance the overall co-ordination of the Department of Justice's work concerning mediation and arbitration, etc. through the Joint Dispute Resolution Strategy Office to further promote Hong Kong's international legal and dispute resolution services so that enterprises on the Mainland and in jurisdictions along the Belt and Road will use such professional services of Hong Kong in their business development pursuant to the Belt and Road Initiative. (DoJ)
- In accordance with the Arbitration and Mediation Legislation (Third Party Funding) (Amendment) Ordinance 2017, we will issue codes of practice for third party funding of arbitration and mediation after consulting members of the public. (DoJ)
- Provide mediation facilities in the vicinity of the West Kowloon Law Courts Building to encourage the use of mediation by members of the public to resolve suitable Small Claims Tribunal cases and other appropriate types of disputes through a pilot mediation scheme, with a view to promoting more extensive use of mediation to resolve disputes and enhancing public awareness of mediation as a means of dispute resolution. (DoJ)
- Promote the use of evaluative mediation (in addition to facilitative mediation) for resolving appropriate types of disputes including those concerning intellectual property. (DoJ)

- Enhance co-operation with the Mainland authorities, local legal profession, and arbitration and mediation institutions in Hong Kong to facilitate the provision of international legal and dispute resolution services on the Mainland by Hong Kong professionals, and strive to consolidate Hong Kong's position and competitiveness as a leading centre for international legal and dispute resolution services in the Asia-Pacific region under the Framework Agreement on Deepening Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Cooperation in the Development of the Bay Area. (DoJ)
- Create favourable environment and infrastructure so as to facilitate international legal and dispute resolution institutions (especially world-class institutions) to provide services or set up offices in Hong Kong. Measures include providing such institutions with space in the West Wing of the former Central Government Offices and the former French Mission Building. So far, we have offered space to 17 reputable local, regional and international institutions and they have confirmed acceptance of the space offered. (DoJ)
- Continue to enhance promotion of Hong Kong's international legal and dispute resolution services through co-operation with international organisations such as the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, as well as participation in the work of the Friends of the Chair group on Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure under the Economic Committee of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation. (DoJ)

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- Continue to enhance legal collaboration in civil and commercial matters between Hong Kong and the Mainland, so as to facilitate the resolution of civil and commercial disputes in a more cost-effective manner. We will take forward the discussion with stakeholders on a proposed arrangement with the Mainland on reciprocal recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters. (DoJ)

Construction Industry

- Seizing the opportunities brought by the Central Government's Belt and Road Initiative and the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area, we will continue to promote the strengths of the construction and related professional services sectors (including good knowledge of international construction standards, extensive experience in the areas of design, project management, infrastructure maintenance, etc.) to provide world-class professional services to the Bay Area development plan, and to co-operate with the Bay Area cities to jointly open up the infrastructure market of the Belt and Road countries. (DEVB)
- Continue to collaborate with the Construction Industry Council (CIC) and other key stakeholders to monitor the manpower situation in the construction industry and implement measures to maintain a construction workforce of sufficient strength and quality to meet the industry's manpower demand in the future. (DEVB)
- Continue to prepare the Construction Industry Security of Payment Bill for introduction into the Legislative Council in 2018. The new legislation aims to enhance the security of payment in construction-related contracts to improve cash flow of the supply chain in the construction industry. (DEVB)

Adopting Innovative Construction Method

- Promote and lead the adoption of Modular Integrated Construction in the construction industry. By adopting the concept of “factory assembly followed by on-site installation” and the mode of manufacturing, labour intensive processes can be accomplished in off-site prefabrication yard with a view to enhancing productivity and cost-effectiveness. (DEVB) ([New Initiative](#))
- In addition to adopting Building Information Modelling technology in the design of major government capital works projects scheduled to start in 2018, the Government will collaborate with the CIC to strengthen Building Information Modelling training for relevant professionals and promote the use of the technology in private construction projects. (DEVB)
- The new Construction Innovation and Technology Application Centre of the CIC will be in operation by the end of this year to provide the latest information on the local and overseas construction technologies with a view to supporting small and medium enterprises for adoption. The centre aims at establishing a global research network to promote interdisciplinary research and application on enhancement of productivity and safety performance in the long run. (DEVB)

Enhancing Management Capability for Major Government Works Projects

- Enhance our management capability to resolve cross-bureau and cross-departmental issues relating to the delivery of major infrastructure projects, and address strategic issues which might impede the progress in such projects. (DEVB)

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- Drawing on overseas experience, we will study the establishment of a major project leaders academy to provide high-level leadership professional training on a continuous basis so as to equip major project leaders in the Government with world-class leadership skills in the delivery of public works projects. (DEVB) (New Initiative)
 - Assist the Development Bureau and works departments in strengthening their corruption prevention measures for the quality control of major construction materials used in infrastructure projects and enhancing the corruption prevention awareness and capabilities of the practitioners. (ICAC) (New Initiative)
 - Continue to assist the Development Bureau and works departments in enhancing their corruption prevention measures for the tendering and administration of works contracts for implementation of projects commissioned under New Engineering Contract. (ICAC)
 - The Project Cost Management Office established in 2016 will continue to keep the cost of public works projects under strict control and enhance the project management performance, striving to minimise the risk of project cost overrun or delay. (DEVB)
 - Strengthen the cost control and management of public works projects, enhance constructability, increase productivity, encourage innovation and continue to review and improve the current procurement system to promote fair competition with a view to allowing participation by more contractors. (DEVB)

Testing and Certification

- Through the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification, we will adopt a market-driven approach to support the development of the testing and certification industry and assist the industry in exploring business opportunities. (ITB)

Textile and Clothing Industries

- Through the collaboration of the Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel with the industry, we will continue to foster the development of new materials and advanced production technologies, to support the high-value-added development of the textile and clothing industries. (ITB)

Re-industrialisation

- Earmark \$500 million to kickstart a Technology Talent Scheme, which includes establishing a Postdoctoral Hub and expanding the Internship Programme to nurture more technology talents, and providing subsidies to local enterprises for training their staff in advanced manufacturing technologies, especially those related to Industry 4.0. (ITB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Continue to promote the translation of innovative and technological ideas into industrial designs or products, nurture a start-up culture in Hong Kong and support re-industrialisation through the “Inno Space” established at the Hong Kong Productivity Council. (ITB)
- Work closely with the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation on the Science Park expansion project and develop an Advanced Manufacturing Centre and a Data Technology Hub in Tseung Kwan O Industrial Estate to promote re-industrialisation. (ITB)

Supporting Small and Medium Enterprises

- The Government will set up an inter-departmental platform to promote the development of e-commerce. The Government will also encourage the development of mobile payment channels. (ITB/FSTB) (New Initiative)
- The Government will review government-administered or guaranteed funding schemes, continuing to introduce improvements to the schemes to remove encumbrances and strengthen support for enterprises. (CEDB)

Innovation and Technology

- Plan for the setting up of key technology collaborative platforms in areas where Hong Kong has strong research and development (R&D) capabilities (such as biotechnology) and bring in internationally-renowned universities, research institutes and innovation and technology companies to join force with the local R&D community to carry out forward-looking collaborative R&D projects with social benefits, in order to bring together top quality talents from around the world and enhance the standards of local technology talents. (ITB) (New Initiative)
- Continue to undertake statutory planning procedures for the Lok Ma Chau Loop area according to the proposed land use planning in order to support the development of the Hong Kong/Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park. (DEVB)
- Support the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation in constructing the InnoCell adjacent to the Science Park to provide residential units and ancillary facilities for tenants/incubatees of the Science Park. (ITB)

- Support the 16 Partner State Key Laboratories and six Hong Kong branches of the Chinese National Engineering Research Centres to conduct R&D activities in a diverse range of disciplines. (ITB)
- Conduct a preliminary planning study on the development of an industrial estate near the Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai boundary control point. (ITB)
- Promote venture capital funds to invest in local innovation and technology start-ups through launching the Innovation and Technology Venture Fund. (ITB)
- Cyberport will join and support the Government’s Space Sharing Scheme for Youth to provide some 20 000 square feet of off-site Smart-Space co-working space to further its support for innovation and technology start-ups. (ITB) (New Initiative)
- Facilitate trials of autonomous vehicles at appropriate locations. (THB) (New Initiative)
- Commence a feasibility study on the installation of in-vehicle units for better traffic management, tunnel toll payment, etc. Subject to the findings of the study and discussions with relevant stakeholders, we will explore the feasibility of installing in-vehicle units by owners of different types of vehicles on a voluntary basis. (THB) (New Initiative)
- Install a new generation of on-street parking meters which provide parking space vacancy information and accept remote payment through mobile applications. (THB) (New Initiative)
- Develop an “all-in-one” transport mobile application to facilitate one-stop search for walking, driving, public transport and real-time traffic information by the public. (THB) (New Initiative)

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- Explore incorporating innovation and technology as a criterion into the procurement arrangements, rather than solely considering which is the lowest priced bid, in order to encourage local technological innovation. (ITB/FSTB) (New Initiative)

 - Study the feedback from various sectors on the consultancy report with a view to publishing the Smart City Blueprint for Hong Kong within this year; and inject resources for proceeding immediately with the following projects to lay down an important foundation for smart city development:
 - providing an “eID”, a key digital infrastructure for the development of smart city, for all Hong Kong residents, allowing them to use a single digital identity and authentication to conduct Government and commercial transactions online, which would foster the development of the new economic service model that emphasises direct interface with residents and consumers;

 - launching a pilot Multi-functional Smart Lampposts scheme at selected urban locations. The Smart Lampposts would provide convenient data services and collect various types of real-time city data, help enhance city and traffic management, and would complement Hong Kong’s future infrastructure development for 5G mobile communications technology; and

 - reforming the development technology of e-Government systems and build a big data analytics platform to support the adoption of cloud services and new information technology by government bureaux and departments, thereby enhancing operational efficiency and cyber security. (ITB) (New Initiative)

- Establish a high-level and cross-bureau Steering Committee on Innovation and Technology, chaired by the Chief Executive, to examine and steer innovation and technology measures and smart city projects, to ensure that innovation and technology development of Hong Kong is driven in a highly efficient manner. (ITB) (New Initiative)
- Promote the use of technology by government departments to enhance their service quality through the earmarked funding of \$500 million. (ITB)
- Continue to subsidise, through the Innovation and Technology Fund for Better Living, innovation and technology projects which will bring more convenient, more comfortable and safer living to the public or will address the needs of specific community groups. (ITB)
- Continue to encourage car park operators in Kowloon East to provide real-time parking vacancy information for the convenience of motorists, thereby also helping to reduce traffic. Currently, real-time information of over half of the hourly parking spaces in the area is available to the public. (DEVB)
- Proceed to establish a Common Spatial Data Infrastructure, a geo-platform for the integration, exchange and sharing of geographic spatial data, to support the development of a smart city. (DEVB)

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- Further carry out proof-of-concept trials relating to smart city development in Kowloon East to examine the effectiveness of different innovative concepts and their implementation modes and strategies. These trials will cover a kerbside loading/unloading bay monitoring system, illegal parking monitoring system, multi-functional smart lampposts, smart rubbish bin system, energy efficiency data system, and sharing of real-time roadworks information, etc. (DEVB)
 - Continue to collaborate with different research and academic institutions, using Kowloon East as a major component in investigating smart city development, on subjects including a common digital platform with geographic information system functionality, tree health alert system, data mining techniques, and environmental air quality forecast, etc. (DEVB)
 - Update the permanent exhibitions of the Hong Kong Science Museum and strengthen the museum's efforts on promoting Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education. (HAB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

Creative Industries

- To work with the Civil Service Training and Development Institute and work in collaboration with the Efficiency Unit to include creativity and design thinking as key elements of training programmes for directorate officers, work actively with key public service providers within the Government to redesign workflow and communication channels with the public through effective application of design thinking, so as to further enhance efficiency and meet people's needs. (CEDB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

- Devote resources to further promote the development of creative industries, especially the nurturing of young talent, and enable the community to have a better understanding of creative thinking and design ability. (CEDB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Provide more resources for Hong Kong Design Centre to support the implementation of various initiatives to enhance Hong Kong's status as a city of design excellence in Asia. (CEDB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Collaborate with the Tourism Board and other relevant bodies to lift the Business of Design Week into an iconic design and tourism event for Hong Kong and the world. (CEDB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Liaise more closely with other design cities on the Mainland and overseas, and promote Hong Kong's position as a creative hub, thereby opening up new markets for Hong Kong. (CEDB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Actively look into ways for young designers to fully use the traditional base for apparel and fabrics in the Sham Shui Po district to create new synergy, fuel the local economy and enrich the tourism resources of the district and foster the development of Hong Kong's fashion design industry. (CEDB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Review the operation of the Film Development Fund with a view to driving the further development of the local film industry and nurturing more professionals for film production or post-production to better respond to market needs. (CEDB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

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- Continue to collaborate with the film industry to organise film-related training programmes and implement overseas training schemes, with a view to providing our film talent with more local and overseas training opportunities. Trade delegations will continue to be organised to visit the Belt and Road regions to promote Hong Kong's post-production and location filming and production facilitation services. (CEDB)
 - Continue to encourage local film production activities, nurture local film talent and build up audience through various funding schemes under the Film Development Fund. (CEDB)
 - Implement the initiative of requiring developers to provide cinema facilities in their development projects as appropriate through terms and conditions in the land lease. (CEDB)
 - Explore with the relevant Mainland authorities possible measures to enable Hong Kong publishers to tap into the Mainland market. (CEDB) ([New Initiative](#))

Intellectual Property

- Enhance our intellectual property regime to meet Hong Kong's socio-economic needs:
 - pressing ahead with the establishment of an original grant patent system to support the efforts to develop Hong Kong into a regional innovation and technology hub;
 - continuing the implementation of measures to strengthen Hong Kong's position as an intellectual property trading hub in the Asia-Pacific region;

- amending the Trade Marks Ordinance for Hong Kong to implement the international registration system under the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks, with the aim of enabling businesses to save time and cost in obtaining and managing international trade mark registrations; and
- considering amendments to the Copyright Ordinance to meet the requirements under the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled, taking into account views received during the public consultation exercise. (CEDB)

Broadcasting and Telecommunications

- Promote the extension of optical fibre networks to villages in rural and remote areas so as to further enhance the coverage of higher speed fixed broadband network. (CEDB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Continue with the review of the Broadcasting Ordinance and the Telecommunications Ordinance, including undertaking a public consultation to gauge views of stakeholders on relevant proposals, with a view to enhancing the regulatory regime for the broadcasting and telecommunications sectors. (CEDB)
- Handle licensing and regulatory matters for television/sound broadcasters and promote the development of the broadcasting industry in Hong Kong. (CEDB)

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- Make decisions jointly with the Communications Authority on the arrangements for the re-assignment of 198.6 MHz of frequency spectrum in the 900 MHz and 1 800 MHz bands upon expiry of the existing assignments in 2020 to 2021 and the related spectrum utilisation fee, and implement the arrangements. (CEDB)
 - Oversee the on-going implementation of various initiatives by Radio Television Hong Kong in fulfilment of its mission as a public service broadcaster. (CEDB)
 - Compile and analyse the views received from the public consultation on strengthening the regulation of person-to-person telemarketing calls with a view to formulating a regulatory regime that is effective and suitable for Hong Kong. (CEDB)

Improving Regulatory Infrastructure

- Provide dedicated funding to support the Competition Commission's litigation work. (CEDB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Work closely with stakeholders, including the Judiciary, to continue to work on amendments to the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance. (CEDB)

Agriculture and Fisheries Industry

- Promote the sustainable development of local fisheries through various measures, including:
 - encouraging the industry to make good use of the \$500 million Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund;
 - continuing our efforts to proactively combat illegal fishing activities including trawling; and

- expanding the existing fish culture zone(s). (FHB) (New Initiative)
- Facilitate the utilisation of industrial buildings for engaging in technology and/or mechanisation-based agricultural productions including new agro-technology such as hydroponics and aquaculture as well as taking a more proactive role in encouraging the research and promotion of new agro-technology. (FHB/DEVB) (New Initiative)
- Continue to implement the New Agriculture Policy by adopting a more proactive approach to promoting the modernisation and sustainable development of local agriculture. Major measures include:
 - establishing an Agricultural Park;
 - optimising the \$500 million Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund;
 - commencing the study on designating Agricultural Priority Areas;
 - strengthening support for the sector to help farmers move up the value chain through, for example, marketing of products and brand building; and
 - promoting agriculture-related leisure and educational activities. (FHB)

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- Commence a study to devise an antimicrobial resistance surveillance plan for local livestock and fish farms in accordance with the Hong Kong Strategy and Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance, and liaise with the veterinary and agricultural and fishery sectors to facilitate their use of the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund and the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund for commencing pilot projects to engage veterinary services for the livestock and fish farms. (FHB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
 - Continue our efforts to enhance the quality assurance of local agricultural and fisheries products to ensure food safety. (FHB)

The New Role of Government in Promoting Economic Development

New Direction for Taxation

- Prepare legislation with a view to introducing a two-tiered profits tax rates regime in 2018 to reduce the tax burden on enterprises, especially small and medium enterprises. (FSTB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Provide additional tax deduction for expenditure incurred by enterprises on R&D in order to incentivise companies to increase investment in technological R&D. (ITB/FSTB/CEDB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Hold a Summit on the New Directions for Taxation on 23 October 2017 to consult stakeholders on tax measures conducive to economic development. (FSTB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Continue to expand Hong Kong's network of Comprehensive Double Taxation Agreements. (FSTB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

Creation of Space

- Implement a Space Sharing Scheme for Youth through “community-business-government” tripartite partnership to provide a platform for owners of revitalised industrial buildings and commercial buildings to provide floor space at concessionary rental for the operation of co-working space or studios to support start-ups in emerging industries and young entrepreneurs, as well as to support arts and cultural development. (HAB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Complete the feasibility study for topside development at the Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities Island of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge and prepare for the design and site investigation works for the associated infrastructure to support the topside development. (DEVB)

Supporting Economic Development

- Invest in infrastructure development to improve people’s livelihood, promote economic growth, create employment opportunities and enhance the long-term competitiveness of Hong Kong. (DEVB)

Promoting Mainland and External Affairs

- The Chief Executive and the principal officials concerned will regularly lead trade delegations and bring professionals and business executives to different economies including countries along the Belt and Road, reinforcing links with other countries on a “Government-to-Government” basis. (CEDB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

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- Formulate policies and initiatives to make use of the opportunities arising from the Belt and Road Initiative, highlighting and leveraging Hong Kong's unique advantages to propel its long-term development:
 - strengthening Hong Kong's relationship with countries along the Belt and Road, with priority accorded to the member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Specifically, we will promote exchanges and collaboration at government and industry levels, promote the participation of different sectors in the Belt and Road Initiative, in areas such as financing and capital-raising, commerce, trade and logistics, professional and infrastructure services, etc;
 - signing a free trade agreement and an investment agreement with ASEAN within 2017 and step up our engagement with ASEAN countries, in order to secure for Hong Kong businesses more favourable access to ASEAN markets and further enhance Hong Kong's role as a regional trading hub; and
 - actively seeking to forge free trade agreements and investment promotion and protection agreements with other economies, including those along the Belt and Road, as well as to sign trade agreements for specific industries, thereby enhancing the trade, investment and people flow with the countries concerned, and opening up markets along the Belt and Road and overseas for Hong Kong enterprises and professionals, in particular young entrepreneurs and start-ups. (CEDB) ([New Initiative](#))

- Re-structure the institutional framework and arrangements for pursuing the Belt and Road Initiative. This includes revamping the Trade and Industry Advisory Board to provide advice on trade and industry matters, including Hong Kong’s participation in the Belt and Road Initiative. (CEDB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Actively follow up on the signing of “Arrangement for Advancing Hong Kong’s Full Participation in the Belt and Road Initiative” with the Mainland, and establish a joint working mechanism with a view to strengthening communication and overseeing the implementation of the arrangement. (CEDB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Consider ways to promote strategic partnership between enterprises in Hong Kong and on the Mainland for joint investment in the Belt and Road projects and collaborative development of overseas economic and trade co-operation zones, thus exploring overseas markets together. (CEDB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Explore means to enhance the communication mechanism between the Mainland and Hong Kong on Belt and Road project investment and co-operation, including looking into the possibility of establishing an information sharing platform on the Belt and Road projects so that enterprises of the two places will have a better grasp of information for effective participation in the Belt and Road Initiative. (CEDB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

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- Enhance the role of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council in the promotion of and participation in the Belt and Road Initiative, including strengthening its capabilities in risk profiling research, project scoping and business matching, organising more trade missions to countries along the Belt and Road for identifying business opportunities, continuing to organise the Belt and Road Summit and other large-scale exhibitions, and organising programmes that are tailor-made for young professionals and young entrepreneurs. (CEDB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
 - Plan to set up an additional Economic and Trade Office in ASEAN so as to further strengthen trade promotion work in the ASEAN countries. (CEDB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
 - Further strengthen the promotion of Hong Kong as a prime investment destination to encourage enterprises and investors to establish or expand their businesses in Hong Kong so as to capitalise on the business opportunities arising from the Belt and Road Initiative and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area development, making Hong Kong a two-way development base for “going global” and attracting foreign investment. (CEDB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
 - Identify, together with the relevant bureaux and departments, potential enterprises in specific sectors and attract them to set up or expand their businesses in Hong Kong. (CEDB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
 - Further develop Hong Kong as a leading hub for start-ups and entrepreneurship by continuing to attract start-ups globally to set up businesses in Hong Kong. (CEDB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
 - Strengthen the aftercare services for overseas/Mainland enterprises and investors in Hong Kong. (CEDB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

- Change the name of the Steering Committee on Cooperation with the Mainland chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration to the Steering Committee on Taking Forward Bay Area Development and Mainland Cooperation and enhance the effort in providing steer and co-ordinating policy bureaux and departments in promoting Hong Kong's participation in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area development and implementing the development strategies related to Hong Kong in the Outline of the National 13th Five-Year Plan, with a view to consolidating and enhancing Hong Kong's competitive advantages and complementing the long-term development of the country. (CMAB)
- Set up a Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Development Office and create the post of Director of Bay Area Development Office to promote Hong Kong's participation in the Bay Area development. (CMAB) (New Initiative)
- Seek to enrich the content of CEPA, with a view to securing better access to the Mainland market for Hong Kong businesses and promoting and facilitating trade and investment between the two places. (CEDB)
- Work with the Mainland authorities through the CEPA Joint Working Group to assist Hong Kong businesses in using CEPA to tap into the Mainland market. (CEDB)
- Deepen regional co-operation through our existing co-operation mechanisms with the Pan-Pearl River Delta region, the Guangdong and Fujian Provinces, the municipalities of Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen and the Macao Special Administrative Region and liaise with the Sichuan Province on establishing a co-operation mechanism. (CMAB)

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- Continue to liaise with the Guangdong Provincial Government as well as the municipal governments of Guangzhou, Zhuhai and Shenzhen under the principle of “one country, two systems” regarding their efforts in promoting the development of Nansha, Hengqin and Qianhai. (CMAB)
 - Foster exchanges and co-operation between Hong Kong and Taiwan in trade, tourism, culture, social livelihood and other fronts through the Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic and Cultural Cooperation and Promotion Council and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan. (CMAB/CEDB/HAB)
 - Enhance legal co-operation with Guangdong pursuant to the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation. (DoJ)
 - Consider relaxing the application requirements for employment, study or visit visas for nationals of the Belt and Road countries with a view to fostering co-operation and exchanges between Hong Kong and these countries on the one hand, and maintaining effective immigration control on the other. (SB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
 - Continue to liaise with countries and regions with which we have close relationship on tourism and economic development for implementing reciprocal use of automated immigration clearance service for visitors. Hong Kong has concluded such agreements with Korea, Germany, Singapore and Australia. (SB)
 - Support wine trading and distribution businesses in Hong Kong, riding on the growing demand across Asia. (CEDB)

- Press ahead with the development of the Trade Single Window, for rolling out in phases as soon as practicable, with the first phase scheduled to be launched in mid 2018. The Trade Single Window provides a one-stop electronic platform for the lodging of import and export trade documents with the Government to expedite cargo clearance and further facilitate trade in Hong Kong. (CEDB)

Population Policy

Adhering to the Direction of Sustainable Development

- In the context of the “Hong Kong 2030+: Towards a Planning Vision and Strategy Transcending 2030” study, we will examine the strategic planning blueprint for Hong Kong beyond 2030, aligning with the objectives of our population policy from the perspectives of creating capacity for improved living space and better quality of life, enhancing economic competitiveness and facilitating sustainable development. (DEVB)
- Develop high value-added industries to broaden our economic base and provide new areas of economic growth. This will also give the young generation a wide variety of job opportunities with good prospects. (All relevant bureaux)

Training of Talent

- Set up a new Commission for the Planning of Human Resources to be chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration to formulate, examine, co-ordinate and take forward strategies and measures to help develop a competitive workforce to sustain the economic development of Hong Kong. (CSO) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

Extending Working Life

- In line with the Government's arrangement of extending the retirement age of civil service new recruits, we encourage other employers, in particular public and subvented organisations, to implement appropriate measures according to their own circumstances to extend the working life of their employees. (All relevant bureaux)
- The Education Bureau is considering the amendments to the relevant parts of the Education Ordinance (Cap. 279), Grant Schools Provident Fund Rules (Cap. 279C) and Subsidized Schools Provident Fund Rules (Cap. 279D) for extending the retirement age of new teacher recruits of aided schools to 65. (EDB)

Enhancing Employment Support for Elderly People and Others

- Continue to include mature persons as one of the future target groups, the Employees Retraining Board (ERB) will help them rejoin the job market. ERB has completed a market research and, in light of the findings, developed various training and support services to cater for the needs of mature persons, including a series of Workplace Re-entry courses and practical activities to equip the mature participants with the necessary skills and assist them in exploring suitable types of work. (LWB)
- Continue to organise large-scale job fairs which include Mainland employment and vacancy information so as to help job seekers, in particular young people, better understand the employment opportunities on the Mainland and find suitable jobs. (LWB)

- Continue to provide employment support for job seekers with higher education, including Hong Kong students educated in tertiary institutions outside Hong Kong as well as persons from overseas with higher academic/professional qualifications who are interested in working in Hong Kong, through the Higher Education Employment Information e-Platform. (LWB)

Supporting Women in Fulfilling Work and Family Commitments

- Provide an additional grant for whole-day and long whole-day kindergartens under the free quality kindergarten education policy from the 2017/18 school year onwards to encourage them to provide whole-day services to support working parents. (EDB)
- Continue to make an annual provision of around \$240 million to support needy students to participate in after-school activities, including after-school support on learning, through schools and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). In addition, matching grants are provided through the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged to encourage the business sector to work with organisations and schools to implement more after-school learning and support programmes for primary and secondary school students from grassroots families under a dedicated portion of the fund. (EDB/LWB)
- Provide in phases about 5 000 additional places of Extended Hours Service at aided child care centres and kindergarten-cum-child care centres in districts with high demand from 2015-16 onwards so that more pre-primary children in need (aged below six) can continue to receive extended hours of service in the same service units that they are attending with a view to alleviating the pressure on their working parents. (LWB)

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- Continue to encourage NGOs participating in the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses to establish work-based child care centres. Besides, the Government will continue to explore the feasibility of providing in the proposed Government Complex in Tseung Kwan O, on a pilot basis, 100 NGO-operated child care places for staff members. (LWB)
 - Provide additional resources for units of day/residential child care services and pre-school rehabilitation services for enhancing the remuneration for qualified child care staff, so as to retain and attract such staff. (LWB)
 - Conduct a consultancy study to advise on the long-term development of child care services. (LWB)
 - Enhance the provision of training and employment services for women such as implementing, through the ERB, a First-Hire-Then-Train Pilot Programme, with measures catering for the family commitments of middle-aged women and homemakers, to help them rejoin the job market. (LWB)
 - Continue with the efforts in promoting family-friendly employment practices through various channels and a wide range of educational and promotional activities, to encourage employers to help employees keep a balance between their work and family commitments. (LWB)

Providing Better Support for People to Start a Family

- Continue to meet the housing needs of the public, including young married couples, by providing more public housing and maintaining the steady and healthy development of the private property market. On public rental housing, in order to enhance family cohesion, the Hong Kong Housing Authority continues to encourage young families to live with or near their elderly parents/dependants through various Harmonious Families schemes, with a view to establishing a family-based support network and promoting mutual care among family members, including the assistance provided by the elders in taking care of young children. (THB)

- Continue to strengthen the promotion of breastfeeding and encourage the implementation of breastfeeding-friendly measures in the community and workplaces, as well as to review and assess the overall effectiveness of implementing the “Hong Kong Code of Marketing of Formula Milk and Related Products, and Food Products for Infants & Young Children” through the Committee on Promotion of Breastfeeding under the Food and Health Bureau, with a view to enhancing sustained breastfeeding and promoting breastfeeding as a norm widely accepted by the general public for baby care. In addition, to enhance provision of baby care facilities and lactation rooms in the community, the Government will:
 - impose a mandatory requirement for the provision of baby care facilities and lactation rooms in the sale conditions of government land sale sites for new commercial developments comprising office premises and/or retail outlets, eating places, etc.; and

 - mandate the provision of baby care facilities and lactation rooms in certain new government premises. (FHB)

Building an Inclusive Society

- Keep in view the implementation of the “One-Way Permit” scheme and maintain effective communication with the Mainland authorities for the orderly entry of eligible Mainland residents into Hong Kong for family union. (SB)

- Continue to target those social groups with special needs. The ERB will develop courses and services to meet their needs with a view to helping them seek employment and integrate into the community. These include:
 - organising dedicated training courses for new arrivals, ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities, persons recovered from work injuries and ex-offenders, and launching an outreach training consultancy service through which training consultants will provide counselling for different social groups;
 - launching a pilot part-time job referral platform known as Smart Starter to provide registration, vacancy referral and follow-up services for new arrivals who have completed ERB courses;
 - continuing to conduct training courses in the support service centres for ethnic minorities under the Home Affairs Department to facilitate attendance of ethnic minorities; and
 - extending the Modular Certificates Accumulation Scheme to cover other in-demand programmes to enable trainees to make flexible arrangement for further studies and apply for a certificate bearing a qualification equivalent to a corresponding full-time course upon completion of a number of specified half-day or evening courses. (LWB)

Attracting Overseas Talent

- Continue with various talent admission schemes, which are reviewed from time to time, to encourage talent and entrepreneurs to come and stay in Hong Kong for expansion of our talent pool. (SB)
- The Labour and Welfare Bureau has commenced a consultancy study on the feasibility of drawing up a talent list so as to attract high-quality talent in a more effective manner to support Hong Kong's development as a high value-added and diversified economy. The study is expected to be completed this year. (LWB)
- Continue to improve air quality and facilitate development of international schools with a view to enhancing Hong Kong's attractiveness to overseas talent. (ENB/EDB)

Chapter 4

Professional-led Quality Education

Preamble

We firmly believe that talent, in particular our young talent, is the most important element for Hong Kong's development, and education is the key to nurturing them. Government expenditure on education is therefore the most meaningful investment for our future.

Our education policy objective is to nurture future generations to become citizens who are socially responsible and equipped with a sense of national identity, a love for Hong Kong and an international perspective. Through learning, young people will be able to explore their potential, cultivate their interests and enhance their strengths. Well-equipped for the future, they are set to contribute to the community.

Since its inception, the current-term Government has immediately increased recurrent expenditure on education by \$3.6 billion per annum commencing the 2017/18 academic year for the implementation of a package of priority measures in the education system (covering kindergarten, primary, secondary and special education as well as post-secondary education), with the aim of improving the quality of education and creating a stable, caring, inspiring and high-quality teaching and learning environment for students, teachers, parents and schools. We will continue to conduct reviews on other aspects of education, and engage education experts, including those with good knowledge of frontline teachers in the reviews, with a view to ensuring that the formulation of education policies will be led by professionals.

Policy Initiatives

Simplifying Policies and Relieving Pressure

- The Government will conduct review in various education areas, including clarifying the Education Bureau's (EDB) relationship with school sponsoring bodies and schools, forging ahead with school-based management, reviewing the Territory-wide System Assessment, strengthening parent education and home-school co-operation to discourage the culture of excessive competition, with a view to removing encumbrances for the education sector and relieving pressure for students, teachers and principals. (EDB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

New Resources for Education

- Starting from the 2017/18 academic/school year, the Government has increased recurrent expenditure on education by \$3.6 billion a year for the implementation of a package of priority measures in the education system, with the aim of attaining quality education. (EDB)

Comprehensive Review Led by Professionals

- To nurture the younger generation, we will invite education experts to lead in the further reviews and follow up work on the following issues:

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- enhancing the professional development of teachers, which includes establishing a professional ladder for teachers in recognition of the expertise of the teachers in certain subjects and as encouragement to teachers to acquire specialised skills in teaching Chinese as a second language and students with special educational needs (SEN), and exploring the policy on an all-graduate teaching force;
 - reviewing the existing curricula, inculcating in students a stronger sense of national identity and an international perspective, providing opportunities for students' all-round development in culture, arts, sports and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), etc. and instigating innovative thinking;
 - reviewing the Territory-wide System Assessment and school-based assessment to seek enhancements in teaching and learning;
 - promoting vocational and professional education and training (VPET) to cater for students' diverse abilities and interests, and fostering closer business-school collaboration to meet the manpower needs of Hong Kong;
 - revisiting the role and positioning of self-financing post-secondary institutions;
 - clarifying the EDB's relationship with school sponsoring bodies and schools, forging ahead with school-based management, and removing encumbrances for the education sector to provide more room for studies and exchanges on education policies;

- attaching importance to parent education and strengthening home-school co-operation to discourage the culture of excessive competition so that children can grow up happily and healthily; and
 - strengthening funding support for research and hostel development in the University Grants Committee-funded sector. (EDB) (New Initiative)
- Set up task forces and invite education experts, including professionals who understand the situation of frontline teachers, to conduct the above review. The Government will also strengthen its research efforts to assist teachers and schools in enhancing their professional standards, and to improve teaching methods and strategies continuously. (EDB) (New Initiative)

New Style Through Active Listening

- The Chief Executive will host an annual “Chief Executive Summit on Quality Education” in the second quarter of 2018. Stakeholders of the education sector, including frontline teachers, will be invited to the summit to chart the future together. (EDB) (New Initiative)

Kindergarten Education

- The Free Quality Kindergarten Education Policy has been implemented from the 2017/18 school year onwards to provide eligible local non-profit-making kindergartens with a direct subsidy and to improve the quality of kindergarten education in various aspects. A grant is provided for kindergarten students from needy families to cover their school-related expenses. (EDB)

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- Adjust the salary-related subsidies for teaching staff under the free quality kindergarten education policy on a school year basis according to the annual civil service pay adjustment starting from the 2018/19 school year. (EDB)
 - Extend the two-year tide-over grant (2017/18 to 2018/19 school years) for three more years up to the 2021/22 school year so that the kindergartens may retain their long serving teachers with higher salaries within the reference salary range promulgated under the free quality kindergarten education policy. The Government will review the salary arrangements for kindergarten teachers to explore the feasibility of putting in place a salary scale for kindergarten teachers. (EDB)
 - Continue to strengthen the professional development of principals and teachers of kindergartens to enhance the quality of kindergarten education. Measures include organising a Guangdong-Shenzhen-Hong Kong-Macao forum on kindergarten education to deepen the exchange and collaboration among Hong Kong, the Mainland and Macao in kindergarten education. (EDB)
 - The Standing Committee on Language Education and Research (SCOLAR) will make use of the Language Fund to provide Chinese and English enhancement programmes for kindergarten teachers (including training on skills in teaching Chinese to non-Chinese speaking students) in order to dovetail with the launch of the updated Kindergarten Education Curriculum Guide. (EDB)

Primary and Secondary Education

- Upgrade the hardware and software provided for schools, including providing air-conditioning in standard teaching facilities (including classrooms and special rooms), student activity centres and assembly halls of public sector schools to create a better learning environment. Starting from the 2018/19 school year, a recurrent Air-conditioning Grant will be provided for all public sector schools for the related daily expenses. In addition, depending on the actual situation of individual schools, we will install air-conditioning system in the related facilities as necessary in phases. Schools under the Direct Subsidy Scheme will also benefit from the initiative. (EDB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Provide a non-recurrent funding of \$500 million to support suitable projects under the T-excel@hk strategic work plan of the Committee on Professional Development of Teachers and Principals and to implement various measures to enhance the professional development of teachers and principals in the coming 10 years starting from the 2018/19 school year, with an annual disbursement of around \$50 million. Teachers and students of primary and secondary schools, kindergartens and special schools may all benefit from the initiative. (EDB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

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- Increase the teacher-to-class ratio for public sector primary and secondary schools (including special schools) by 0.1 across-the-board starting from the 2017/18 school year to provide additional teaching staff for schools to take forward various education initiatives and enhance the quality of education for the benefit of our students. The additional teaching posts so generated will all be graduate posts but will not be counted towards the calculation of promotion post entitlement, pending the completion of the review to establish a professional ladder for primary and secondary school teachers. (EDB)
 - Enhance the learning and teaching environment of existing school premises and in this regard, improve the facilities of “matchbox-style school premises” as agreed with the sector. Relevant improvement works have commenced in the 2017 summer break. In addition, among the 28 public sector primary schools currently operating in “matchbox-style school premises”, four have been allocated with new school premises/vacant school premises for reprovisioning through the school allocation mechanism. (EDB)
 - Introduce a three-year paid non-local study leave scheme on a pilot basis for serving secondary school teachers to broaden their professional perspective and keep them abreast of the latest trend in global education developments by taking part in professional development activities, such as specific courses or experiential learning attachment programmes lasting for about one to three months. The first batch of two programmes scheduled for April to June 2018 includes two different themes, namely “Interdisciplinary Learning & Entrepreneurship Education” and “Catering for Students with Special Educational Needs”, which will be held in Finland and Australia respectively. (EDB)

- Enhance the support for English learning in primary schools through the use of the Language Fund by SCOLAR to provide a grant for primary schools for enriching the language environment on campus and refining the school-based English Language curriculum, catering in particular for the transition from kindergarten to junior primary as well as learner diversity with equal emphasis on more able and less able students. (EDB)
- SCOLAR will make use of the Language Fund to provide a vocational English programme for senior secondary students who are interested in pursuing VPET or prepared to join the workforce, so as to enhance their English proficiency and provide opportunities for attaining relevant recognition that is beneficial to further study and employment. (EDB)
- Capitalise on the advantage of Hong Kong as an international city to further co-operation and exchange in the realm of education with countries along the Belt and Road to facilitate the understanding of students on the diverse cultures of different ethnic groups, and the development and opportunities of these countries and cities. Related measures include providing suitable learning and teaching resources, widening opportunities for students to learn foreign languages, and further promoting through the Quality Education Fund student visits and exchange activities on the Mainland, countries along the Belt and Road and other overseas countries. Students may, for example, participate in service-learning and English Language Immersion programmes so as to enhance their skills of communication with people of these countries as well as showcase the potential contributions that Hong Kong, as an international city, can make towards the Belt and Road Initiative. (EDB)

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- To stabilise the teaching force and facilitate the sustainable development of secondary schools amidst the progressive rebound of the overall secondary one student population, the Government will continue to implement relief measures, including allowing aided secondary schools with surplus teachers arising from reduction of secondary one classes from the 2013/14 to 2017/18 school years to apply for extending the retention period of the teachers concerned up to the 2018/19 school year and to liaise with stakeholders to reinstate the number of students per class to that prior to the 2013/14 school year. (EDB)
 - To meet the demand of public sector primary one places which is anticipated to peak in the 2018/19 school year, we will continue with flexible measures to increase the supply of public sector primary school places, including temporary allocation of more students per class; further diverting cross-boundary students through the revised arrangements for the central allocation under the Primary One Admission System, and facilitating the arrangements for cross-boundary students of tender age through proper management of traffic and security measures at the boundary areas. Meanwhile, we will discuss the arrangement to stabilise the primary teaching force after the peak with stakeholders. (EDB)
 - Continue to monitor the supply and demand of international school places, especially to meet the demand from non-local families coming to Hong Kong for work or investment, and allocate vacant school premises and greenfield sites for development of international schools when necessary. (EDB)

- To support the promotion of STEM education, the curricula of Science, Technology and Mathematics education have been updated and additional resources have been disbursed to primary and secondary schools. In addition, computational thinking and coding education will also be strengthened in primary schools and intensive training programmes on STEM education will be organised for school leaders and middle managers. We will continue to arrange STEM education forum and professional training for teachers, as well as relevant learning activities for students. (EDB)

- Promote students' understanding of Chinese history and culture. The EDB will make Chinese history an independent compulsory subject at junior secondary level as early as possible and will continue to enhance teacher training to support subject teachers of Chinese Language, Chinese History and Chinese Literature, so as to enable secondary and primary school students to appreciate and inherit the spirit of excellence and the civilisation of the Chinese people. We will also continue to renew the curricula of Chinese History and History to enhance the contents of these subjects. Meanwhile, the EDB will provide learning and teaching resources for enlivening lessons in order to enrich the learning experience of students, foster their interest in and understanding of Chinese history and culture, as well as to broaden their international perspectives. (EDB)

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- Learning elements related to the Basic Law and the concept of “one country, two systems” have long been embedded in the curricula of primary and secondary schools. The EDB will encourage schools to strengthen their school-based planning on Basic Law education and continue to provide multiple support, including principal/teacher training, authentic learning and teaching resources, diversified learning activities, for principals/teachers and students to have a comprehensive understanding of the Basic Law. (EDB)
 - Continue to implement the Fourth Strategy on Information Technology (IT) in Education. Most of the public sector schools have completed the construction of their Wi-Fi campus as planned. All public sector primary and secondary schools (including special schools) receive an extra recurrent cash grant starting from the 2017/18 school year onwards for strengthening their IT staffing support to practise e-learning and take forward various IT-related education initiatives. (EDB)
 - In alignment with the curriculum renewal, we will continue to provide ample Mainland exchange opportunities for primary and secondary school students through a variety of strategies. The aim is to deepen students’ understanding of the history and culture of our country, and enable them to appreciate and inherit the distinctive Chinese culture and national spirit, as well as to learn through their first-hand experience of our country’s development in various aspects and reflect on the opportunities and challenges for Hong Kong and our country. Over 100 000 subsidised quotas are expected to be provided every year from the 2017/18 school year onwards for every student to join at least one Mainland exchange programme in the respective primary and secondary stages. (EDB)

- Follow up the provision of designated funding and professional support for local public sector and primary and secondary schools under the Direct Subsidy Scheme as well as special schools that have formed sister school pairs with the Mainland under the three-year pilot scheme launched in the 2015/16 school year. As at end of the 2016/17 school year, about 620 local schools had participated in the Sister School Scheme, exceeding the target. In the 2017/18 school year, the EDB will commission an independent consultant to conduct an overall review of the effectiveness of the pilot scheme and advise on the way forward. (EDB)

- After increasing the ratio of graduate teacher posts in public sector primary schools from 50% to 55% and 60% in the 2015/16 and 2016/17 school years respectively, we further enhance the ratio to 65% in the 2017/18 school year. The EDB will expedite the implementation of the policy on an all-graduate teaching force to attract more talent to join the teaching profession, so as to enhance the quality of teaching. (EDB)

- Allow schools to opt to turn the Senior Secondary Curriculum Support Grant and the Career and Life Planning Grant into regular teaching posts from the 2016/17 school year for enhancing the implementation of the senior secondary curriculum and strengthening life planning education and related guidance services. About 320 public sector secondary schools have turned the Senior Secondary Curriculum Support Grant and/or the Career and Life Planning Grant into regular teaching posts in the 2016/17 and 2017/18 school years. Subject to the progress of implementation, the EDB will conduct a review in the 2017/18 school year. (EDB)

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- Continue to provide secondary schools with support for implementing life planning education and related guidance services. We will also strengthen the professional development of teachers and mobilise more business organisations to organise career exploration activities for students through district development networks so as to help secondary students better understand the world of work and prepare themselves for further studies and employment in future. The EDB will commission a consultant to conduct a comprehensive review on life planning education and Business-School Partnership Programme in the 2017/18 school year to map the way forward. (EDB)

Post-secondary Education

- Invite the University Grants Committee (UGC) to review the existing research support strategy as well as the level and allocation mechanism of research funding for the higher education sector, with a view to ensuring that the world-class research undertaken by the sector is sustainable, and can meet the needs of Hong Kong and contribute to our social-economic development. Depending on the outcome of the review, additional resources will be provided in future to support the academic and research development of the higher education sector. (EDB) (New Initiative)
- To groom more research talent locally, we will inject \$3 billion into the Research Endowment Fund, the investment income from which will be used for non-means-tested studentships fully covering the tuition fees for all local students of UGC-funded research postgraduate programmes. (EDB) (New Initiative)
- To expedite development of student hostels for UGC-funded universities, we will establish a \$12 billion Hostel Development Fund to meet all outstanding shortfall. (EDB) (New Initiative)

- Regularise the Hong Kong Scholarship for Excellence Scheme from the 2019/20 academic year onwards to continue the effort to subsidise up to 100 outstanding local students per cohort in their pursuit of undergraduate and postgraduate studies in world-renowned universities outside Hong Kong, with a view to nurturing more top talent in various fields to support the development of Hong Kong. (EDB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Starting from the 2017/18 academic year, we provide a non-means-tested annual subsidy of \$30,000 for eligible students pursuing full-time locally-accredited local and non-local self-financing undergraduate (including top-up degree) programmes (save for those enrolled in places already supported under the Study Subsidy Scheme for Designated Professions/Sectors) offered by eligible institutions in Hong Kong. We also provide a non-means-tested annual subsidy of \$5,000 for eligible students pursuing eligible undergraduate (including top-up degree) programmes on the Mainland. (EDB)
- The Study Subsidy Scheme for Designated Professions/Sectors will become a recurrent initiative from the 2018/19 academic year onwards and the number of subsidised places will be increased from about 1 000 per cohort to about 3 000 per cohort. Current students of the designated programmes will also receive the subsidy starting from that academic year. It is estimated that about 13 000 students can benefit from the scheme in each academic year. (EDB)
- Launch the seventh round of Matching Grant Scheme with a commitment of up to \$500 million for eligible self-financing local degree-awarding institutions to apply. (EDB)

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- After increasing the senior year intake places of institutions funded by the UGC to 4 600 per annum in the 2016/17 academic year, we will further increase the number to 5 000 per annum by the 2018/19 academic year. (EDB)
 - Continue to implement a pilot scheme to provide an option for Hong Kong sub-degree graduates to articulate to top-up degree programmes offered by Huaqiao University in Fujian Province. (EDB)
 - Continue to encourage students from regions along the Belt and Road to enrol in post-secondary programmes in Hong Kong. Following the provision of 10 additional offers of scholarship for students from Indonesia under the Targeted Scholarship Scheme starting from the 2016/17 academic year, 10 offers of Belt and Road Scholarship, funded by private donations, are provided for students from Malaysia and Thailand respectively in the 2017/18 academic year. (EDB)

Supporting Students with Different Needs

- Regularise the Pilot Project on Special Educational Needs Coordinators (SENCOs) under the Community Care Fund from the 2017/18 school year onwards. The Government will provide each public sector ordinary primary and secondary school with an additional Assistant Primary School Master/Mistress post or Graduate Master/Mistress post in the teaching establishment in phases over three years to facilitate the assignment of a designated teacher to take up the role of SENCO to support integrated education. The Government will keep in view the implementation of the SENCO provision, including the ranking of the post and teaching load arrangement, etc. (EDB)

- Continue to develop in the 2017/18 school year an evidence-based model with strategies and related teaching and learning resources for supporting the learning and development of students with autism having average to high average intelligence, based on a support model having been developed in phases for primary to junior secondary school students with autism. (EDB)
- Continue to provide additional resources, professional support and teacher training to help primary and secondary schools cater for their students with SEN, and to adjust the rates of the Learning Support Grant on an annual basis according to the established mechanism; continue to provide the School-based Educational Psychology Service for all public sector primary and secondary schools, and provide enhanced service for schools with a large number of students with SEN progressively. (EDB)
- Starting from the 2017/18 school year, the Learning Support Grant for public sector ordinary primary and secondary schools also covers students with mental illness so as to help schools cater for their learning, social, emotional and behavioural needs. In addition, the EDB conducts the “Professional Development Programme for Mental Health” from the 2017/18 school year onwards to enhance teachers’ capacity to identify and support students with mental health needs. The programme includes elementary training for teachers at large and in-depth training for designated teachers, with the EDB providing Supply Teacher Grant for schools. (EDB)
- Continue to evaluate the effectiveness of the current policy and measures to help non-Chinese speaking students (notably ethnic minority students) learn Chinese as a second language, with due regard to the views of relevant stakeholders in refining the support measures. (EDB)

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- Continue to implement improvement measures in special schools, including the provision of additional teaching staff, allied health staff and resources to enhance support for students in special schools. (EDB)
 - Continue to support the work of the Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education in nurturing exceptionally gifted students aged between 10 and 18 and provide special academic and non-academic training as well as counselling services through the newly set up Gifted Education Fund. Meanwhile, the EDB will continue to implement school-based gifted education programmes, which include training for principals and teachers in primary and secondary schools, and establish school networks to share practices and experiences, so as to enable schools to identify more talent, expand the talent pool in Hong Kong and enhance our competitiveness. (EDB)
 - The Department of Health is preparing for the setting up of a new Child Assessment Centre (CAC) to handle the increasing caseloads. It expects that, with the completion and full operation of the new CAC, the waiting time for child assessment service will be shortened. As an interim measure before the completion of the new CAC, the department will set up a temporary CAC in its existing facilities which is expected to be in operation by early 2018. (FHB)

Vocational Education

- Improve facilities and policy support for vocational education, such as supporting the expansion of the Vocational Training Council (VTC) campuses. The Government will further enhance the facilities for VPET by carrying out planning work of a site identified in Cha Kwo Ling, Kowloon East to develop a sizable VTC campus with state-of-the-art facilities. In addition, the Government supports the VTC in principle to construct an Aviation and Marine Engineering Centre on the site of the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (Tsing Yi). (EDB)
- Consider aligning the courses offered by the VTC with the findings of the Report on Manpower Projection compiled by the Labour and Welfare Bureau so that the training and re-training efforts can be focused on addressing the manpower needs of different sectors. (LWB) (New Initiative)
- Set up an International Culinary Institute under the VTC. As a centre of excellence in international cuisine, the institute aims at enhancing Hong Kong's status as a Gourmets' Paradise and regional education hub, and improving education opportunities for young people. The institute, to be completed in 2018, will provide advanced and all-rounded training for students to prepare them for a future career in the internationalised culinary industry. (EDB)
- Continue to provide funding for the VTC to implement the Pilot Subsidy Scheme for Students of Professional Part-time Programmes to provide tuition fee subsidy for students admitted to designated professional part-time programmes in the disciplines of construction, engineering and technology. (EDB)

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- Explore the use of a site in Tai Po for construction of a multi-storey campus for the Construction Industry Council to train more high-calibre and professional construction practitioners, to keep pace with the use of cutting-edge technologies in the construction industry for enhancing productivity and to attract more new entrants. (DEVB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

Qualifications Framework

- Inject an additional \$1.2 billion to the Qualifications Framework Fund for ongoing support for various stakeholders to participate in the Qualifications Framework (QF) and the promotion and public education of QF, so as to promote lifelong learning and support the manpower need of Hong Kong. (EDB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Play an active role in the setting up of the country's QF and share our experience in the implementation of QF in Hong Kong and provide advice where needed. We will also continue to explore opportunities for co-operation with other countries or places in the development of QF, with a view to enhancing the international image and recognition of Hong Kong QF and supporting mobility of learners and labour. (EDB)

Continuing Education

- Inject an additional \$1.5 billion into the Continuing Education Fund and enhance its operation, with measures including the expansion of the scope of the courses, so as to encourage the public to pursue lifelong learning and continuing education. (LWB)

Chapter 5

Home Ownership, Liveable City

Preamble

Land is key to Hong Kong's sustainable social and economic development. To tackle the housing problem that besets many Hong Kong people, we must continue our efforts to develop land resources. Apart from providing decent homes for the people, we also need to make available sufficient land for commercial and industrial developments, government and community facilities, open space and public space, etc. Land is also needed for fostering the development of innovation and technology and various emerging industries.

Land use planning and development often take more than a decade to come to fruition. Instead of adhering to one single option to develop land, we must take a multi-pronged approach and make sustained efforts. Together, the short, medium and long-term land supply projects will produce over 600 000 residential flats. We will endeavour to increase land supply. In this connection, we will take forward the territorial development strategy outlined in "Hong Kong 2030+: Towards a Planning Vision and Strategy Transcending 2030" to meet the long-term development needs of Hong Kong and build adequate land reserves for the future. Moreover, the Task Force on Land Supply has been established to engage the public in discussions on the advantages and disadvantages as well as the priorities of different land supply options, and to facilitate consensus building within the community. The Task Force will take an overall, macro review of our land supply options, and all sectors of the community will be engaged in considering the feasibility of different options for creating land.

We will work together to develop Hong Kong into a sustainable and enjoyable place to live and work.

We will project future housing demand and adopt various measures in increasing housing supply under the established framework of the Long Term Housing Strategy. We will also explore ways to enhance the housing ladder to cater for the housing needs of different social strata.

On transport, we will continue to encourage the use of public transport services and maintain an efficient multi-modal public transport network, with railway as the backbone, complemented by other services such as buses, public light buses and taxis. We will also sustain our efforts to enhance road-based transport services in order to improve service quality and efficiency and alleviate the pressure for fare increases. In addition, we will continue the work in fostering a “pedestrian-friendly” and “bicycle-friendly” environment conducive to making “first mile” and “last mile” connections to public transport services, thereby promoting green commuting.

We are taking forward, in full swing, the Hong Kong Section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link project and the Shatin to Central Link project. Also, we will continue to implement the seven new railway projects under the Railway Development Strategy 2014 in an orderly manner.

The Public Transport Strategy Study, which examined the roles and positioning of public transport services other than railway, was completed in June this year. We will implement the initiatives recommended by the study so as to continue with the development of other public transport services and providing diversified choices for passengers while developing railway services. Meanwhile, we will further enhance the overall transport network in the territory.

To build a liveable city, apart from the provision of hardware such as housing and transport infrastructure, the Government will strive to boost the development of sports, arts and culture. We will continue to provide diversified and modern sports and recreational facilities and services to promote sports for all. Efforts will be made to develop a strong sporting culture through encouraging public participation, developing elite athletes and organising mega sports events. As regards arts and culture, we will promote Chinese and local culture on the one hand and actively attract international arts and cultural activities to Hong Kong on the other. Our vision is to develop Hong Kong into an international cultural metropolis. To this end, we will expedite the development of West Kowloon Cultural District to establish Hong Kong's position as a cultural hub, nurture and support the development of local arts groups and artists, and strengthen our cultural co-operation and exchanges with the Mainland as well as overseas places.

Environmental protection and conservation are closely related to the betterment of the quality of city life. Pursuing the targets and work plans mapped out in five published blueprints, the Government will take forward initiatives on air quality improvement, waste management, biodiversity, energy conservation and climate change. We are implementing various measures in proactive partnership with various sectors, with a view to developing Hong Kong into an even more environmentally friendly and liveable city.

The Government will also strengthen conservation of the countryside environment and maintain the biodiversity of Hong Kong, and enhance the recreational and educational facilities and services in country parks.

Policy Initiatives

Developing Land Resources

Seeking Consensus

- Establish a cross-sector Task Force on Land Supply to take an overall macro review of our land supply options, engage the community in discussions on the pros and cons of different options and their priorities thereby facilitating consensus-building. (DEVB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

Updating Development Strategy

- Continue with the study on “Hong Kong 2030+: Towards a Planning Vision and Strategy Transcending 2030” to examine the strategic planning blueprint for overall spatial planning and for land and infrastructure development of Hong Kong beyond 2030, with a view to planning for a liveable high-density city, embracing new economic challenges and opportunities, and creating capacity for sustainable growth. (DEVB)
- In the light of the findings of the Preliminary Feasibility Study on Developing the New Territories North and the views received during the public consultation on the New Territories North strategic growth area conducted within the framework of “Hong Kong 2030+”, explore the scope for further developing a new town of similar scale as Fanling/Sheung Shui in New Territories North. (DEVB)

- Having completed the Stage 1 Public Engagement on the Pilot Study on Underground Space Development in Selected Strategic Urban Areas, we are formulating suitable conceptual schemes for potential Underground Space Development sites, including Kowloon Park, Victoria Park and Southorn Playground in the four Strategic Urban Areas, namely Tsim Sha Tsui West, Causeway Bay, Happy Valley and Admiralty/Wan Chai with due consideration to the public views received. We expect to launch the Stage 2 Public Engagement in 2018 to gauge public views on the relevant conceptual schemes. (DEVB)

Short-term Measures

- Through a steering group set up within the Planning and Lands Branch of the Development Bureau, we will explore how best to consolidate and rationalise the standards and definitions adopted by the relevant departments under the Development Bureau (namely the Buildings Department, the Lands Department and the Planning Department) in scrutinising development projects such that the approval process can be streamlined without prejudicing the relevant statutory procedures and technical requirements, and to engage the trade in the process. (DEVB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Consider ways to facilitate the implementation of a “single site, multiple use” model in multi-storey development on government land in order to consolidate and provide more Government, Institution or Community facilities, so as to make optimal use of the limited land resources. (DEVB/FSTB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

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- Continue to implement the Pilot Scheme for Arbitration on Land Premium to facilitate agreement between the Government and private land owners on land premium payable for lease modification and land exchange transactions through arbitration. (DEVB)
 - Continue to rezone the more than 210 suitable sites with development potential as identified in land use reviews to residential or other uses for which the community has more pressing needs. We will also appropriately increase the development density of individual residential sites. (DEVB)

Energising Kowloon East

- With a view to better understanding the profiles and needs of the business establishments in Kowloon East, we will conduct a survey on them, including those in the arts, cultural and creative sectors. (DEVB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Continue to implement the construction works of Tsun Yip Street Playground and Tsui Ping River Garden, and to take forward the improvement works of other public open spaces in Kowloon East to cater for the development needs of the area. (DEVB)

- Kowloon East currently has 28 buildings which are accredited with Building Environmental Assessment Method (BEAM) Plus Gold or above ratings. To continue developing Kowloon East into a green and smart neighbourhood, related land sales conditions such as requiring building design to achieve BEAM Plus Gold or above ratings, provision of smart water meter system and electric vehicle charging facilities are stipulated for land sale sites for private development. We will also require real-time parking vacancy information to be provided for commercial car parks at appropriate sites. (DEVB)

Medium and Long-term Measures

- Formulate a policy framework to tackle brownfield sites in a holistic manner, with the objectives of optimising land utilisation, rationalising land uses, supporting the development of industries that are needed in Hong Kong, and improving the rural environment. We will also strive to complete the survey on the existing profile and operations of brownfield sites and the consultancy studies on the feasibility of accommodating brownfield operations in multi-storey buildings within 2018. (DEVB) ([New Initiative](#))
- Continue with the implementation of new development areas and new town extensions:
 - press ahead with the implementation of the plans for the Kwu Tung North and Fanling North New Development Areas as an extension to the Fanling/Sheung Shui New Town;

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- press ahead with the implementation of the development of Tung Chung New Town Extension to tie in with the development of Lantau, turning Tung Chung into a distinct and more comprehensively developed new town;
 - press ahead with the implementation of the plans for the Hung Shui Kiu New Development Area as a regional hub in the North West New Territories to complement the new towns of Tin Shui Wai, Yuen Long and Tuen Mun, providing housing, employment opportunities and civic facilities; and
 - press ahead with the implementation of the plans for deserted or damaged agricultural land and rural-based industrial sites in Yuen Long South as an extension to the Yuen Long New Town to meet housing and other development needs and improve the local rural environment. (DEVB)
- Continue with the planning and engineering study for Tseung Kwan O Area 137, including exploration of residential, commercial and other suitable land uses, as well as the need for the originally reserved uses. (DEVB)

- Strive to complete the site investigation, detailed impact assessments and detailed design for the relocation of Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works to caverns as soon as possible for early commencement of cavern construction works and relocation of existing sewage treatment works. We will also proceed with the next phase of work and commence feasibility studies on relocating the service reservoirs at Tsuen Wan and Yau Tong to caverns in the light of the public consultation results related to the development options of the six hectares of land released from the relocation of the Diamond Hill Fresh Water and Salt Water Service Reservoirs, Sai Kung Sewage Treatment Works and Sham Tseng Sewage Treatment Works to caverns. (DEVB)

- Continue to implement the recommendations of the study on the long-term strategy of cavern development, including the technical study on underground quarrying for cavern development, and identify suitable strategic cavern development areas for carrying out planning and engineering feasibility studies. (DEVB)

- Continue to provide the market with more prime office and commercial space to support economic activities. To this end, the Government will convert suitable government sites and offices in the Central Business Districts into commercial use and reduce as far as possible the leasing of commercial office space in Central and Admiralty for government use. (DEVB/FSTB)

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- Take forward the proposed development of public housing at six government sites (including the five sites in Pok Fu Lam South and the redevelopment of Wah Fu Estate), which are expected to provide about 11 900 additional public housing units, and carry out the statutory procedures for amending the relevant outline zoning plans following the partial lifting of the administrative moratorium on the development of Pok Fu Lam. The site formation and infrastructure works of the five sites in Pok Fu Lam South are scheduled for commencement in 2019. Assuming all procedures to be completed timely, the earliest batch of the reception units for the redevelopment of Wah Fu Estate is expected to be completed in 2025. (THB/DEVB)
 - Carry out a strategic study to explore the preliminary feasibility of reclamation at the southern part of the Central Waters. The proposed reclamation will help create the necessary conditions for future development which mainly rely on marine transport. (DEVB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

Developing and Conserving Lantau

- Establish a Sustainable Lantau Office under the Civil Engineering and Development Department to progressively take forward various studies, development projects and conservation work in accordance with the “Sustainable Lantau Blueprint”, including the strategic studies for constructing artificial islands in the Central Waters between Hong Kong Island and Lantau Island (including the East Lantau Metropolis); formulating and implementing measures to conserve nature, antiquities and monuments, and cultural heritage on Lantau; and continuing to collaborate with organisations and stakeholders in the relevant fields. (DEVB)
- Deploy different resources to take forward various appropriate countryside conservation initiatives in selected pilot areas on Lantau, such as Tai O, Shui Hau and Pui O, to support the efforts in developing and conserving Lantau. The Environment and Conservation Fund has earmarked funding and will invite applications for undertaking environmental education and community action projects on nature conservation in South Lantau. (ENB/DEVB)
- Continue to take forward near-shore reclamation projects, including progressive conduct of district consultation and planning and engineering studies for Ma Liu Shui and Lung Kwu Tan reclamation; and planning and engineering study for Sunny Bay reclamation; and completion of technical study for Siu Ho Wan reclamation on Lantau Island. In particular, the Ma Liu Shui reclamation study will take into account the planning of the adjoining site vacated after relocation of the Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works to caverns, with a view to providing land for development of high technology and knowledge-based industries, housing and other uses. (DEVB)

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- Continue to support the Airport Authority Hong Kong (AAHK) in its development of the Airport North Commercial District (SKYCITY). According to the plan of the AAHK, the first phase of development includes a hotel and a facility combining retail, dining and entertainment (RDE) purposes. The tendering exercise for the hotel development has been completed and the development is planned for completion by 2021. The RDE development was put to tender in September 2017. (THB)
 - Continue to take forward the development project at Siu Ho Wan Depot Site and continue to actively explore in collaboration with the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) the development potential of other stations and railway-related sites along existing and future rail lines. (DEVB)

Energising Kowloon East

- The Energising Kowloon East initiative has already built up the urban transformation momentum in Kwun Tong and Kowloon Bay. We will extend the initiative to San Po Kong, particularly focusing on enhancing connectivity, improving the environment, and promoting vibrancy and diversified development. (DEVB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Review the land uses of a site at Lai Yip Street near the Kwun Tong harbourfront, which includes studying the possibility of providing space for arts, culture and creative industries uses. (DEVB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

- Review the future use of the land released upon the relocation of the Ngau Tau Kok Divisional Police Station, which is expected to take place around 2020. (DEVB)
- After the public consultation on the recommendation of further increasing the residential development intensity of the Kai Tak Development Area, we are amending the Kai Tak Outline Zoning Plan in accordance with the Town Planning Ordinance with completion of the relevant procedures expected in 2018. (DEVB)
- Keep up the efforts to facilitate transformation of Kowloon East into another attractive core business district. At present, Kowloon East has about 2.4 million square metres of commercial/office floor area, with potential to further supply another 4.6 million square metres approximately in future, bringing the total supply in the district to about 7 million square metres. About 550 000 square metres of commercial/office floor area can be provided from the seven sites sold since 2012, and a similar amount of floor area will be provided in the coming five years from committed private redevelopments and wholesale conversion projects. We are taking forward the studies on the Kowloon Bay Action Area and the Kwun Tong Action Area. The two Action Areas can provide about 560 000 square metres of commercial/office floor area. (DEVB)

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- We have completed the first phase of public consultation on the detailed feasibility study for the Environmentally Friendly Linkage System (EFLS) for Kowloon East and confirmed the adoption of elevated mode EFLS. We are carrying out the next phase of the study, including the proposals for detailed alignment options, station and depot locations, future extension, operation and procurement approaches, cost and financial analysis, etc. Public consultation on the recommended proposal is scheduled to be conducted in 2018. (DEVB)

 - Continue to implement the concept of “walkability” in Kowloon East with a view to improving the pedestrian environment and traffic conditions. This includes carrying out detailed design for an additional footbridge next to Kowloon Bay MTR Station to enhance connectivity with the future East Kowloon Cultural Centre and nearby residential areas. In parallel, we are working on the design for the extension and face-lifting of the pedestrian subway network connecting to Ngau Tau Kok MTR Station, face-lifting of a public transport interchange and improvement of pedestrian facilities to create a comfortable walking environment for pedestrians heading for the business area and the promenade. We will continue to take forward the Back Alley Project to improve the pedestrian network. (DEVB)

 - To further enhance walkability in Kowloon East, we will investigate the feasibility of providing a new footbridge across Kwun Tong Road near MTR Kowloon Bay Station Exit A, and another one across Wai Yip Street near Siu Yip Street in addition to the footbridge already planned for connecting Exit B of Kowloon Bay Station with the future East Kowloon Cultural Centre. We will also look into the possibility of providing travelators along Lai Yip Street and Sheung Yee Road to cater for the forecast increase in pedestrian flow. (DEVB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

- Continue to take forward a detailed consultancy study on transforming the King Yip Street nullah into a green and vibrant Tsui Ping River with environmental and landscaping upgrading of the vicinity to achieve synergy effect. (DEVB)
- Select suitable non-profit-making organisation to operate a weekend flea market on the Tourism Node site at the former airport runway tip to bring more vibrancy to the area when the site is pending land disposal, providing opportunities for participation by those who are interested, young people in particular. (DEVB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

Utilising Industrial Buildings

- Explore the reactivation of the revitalisation scheme for industrial buildings to offer incentives to encourage redevelopment or wholesale conversion. In the process, we will consider how operating space can be provided legally and safely under the scheme for certain industries with development potential (such as cultural, arts and creative industries) and for suitable community facilities. (DEVB in collaboration with relevant bureaux) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Continue to study the possibility of facilitating the conversion of the lower floors of some industrial buildings for non-industrial purposes, subject to fire safety and building safety requirements. (DEVB/SB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Review the definition and coverage of “industrial” and “godown” uses in land leases. (DEVB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

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- Consider ways to facilitate the assembly of titles to address the issue of fragmented ownership in certain old industrial buildings, including examining the threshold of “compulsory sale” applicable to old industrial buildings. (DEVB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
 - Strengthen the prosecution action against owners who fail to comply with statutory orders in the context of enforcement actions against illegal domestic use in industrial building premises and continue to explore introducing new legislative provisions to strengthen enforcement efforts. (DEVB)

Other Land Matters

- Continue to examine the implementation of the small house policy and related matters. (DEVB)
- Engage key stakeholders to refine the proposed amendments to the Land Titles Ordinance. (DEVB)

Housing Policy

Long Term Housing Strategy

- Continue to implement the Long Term Housing Strategy, including annually updating the long-term housing demand projection and deriving a rolling 10-year housing supply target accordingly. (THB)

Increasing Supply of Subsidised Housing

- Optimise the development potential of each public housing site by suitably relaxing the maximum domestic plot ratio and other development restrictions where planning and infrastructure permit and environmental quality will not be compromised to an unacceptable extent, and provide additional staff and resources for the relevant departments, so as to maximise and expedite flat production as far as possible. (THB/DEVB)
- Take forward housing construction programmes to achieve the public housing (including public rental housing (PRH) units and subsidised sale flats) supply target, which will be updated annually under the Long Term Housing Strategy. For subsidised sale flats, the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HKHA) has put up about 2 100 new Home Ownership Scheme (HOS) flats for pre-sale in early 2017. If all preparatory work can be completed smoothly, it is anticipated that the HKHA can put up another 4 400 HOS flats for pre-sale in the first quarter of 2018. These flats are scheduled for completion between 2018 and 2020. (THB)
- The second round of the Interim Scheme to Extend the HOS Secondary Market to White Form Buyers was completed in May 2017. The HKHA will conduct a comprehensive review to decide on its way forward. (THB)
- Continue to work with the Hong Kong Housing Society on the provision of about 600 new subsidised sale flats in Tseung Kwan O and Tuen Mun, which are scheduled for pre-sale in the fourth quarter of 2017 and completion in 2020. (THB)

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- Ensure the effective and rational use of PRH resources by enhancing enforcement actions and publicity against tenancy abuse and considering various ways to focus efforts on allocating PRH resources to people with pressing housing needs. In addition, households with living space exceeding the prescribed under-occupation standards will be arranged to move to other PRH units of more appropriate size. (THB)
 - The HKHA will conduct a review on the effectiveness of the Green Form Subsidised Home Ownership Pilot Scheme in order to enable PRH tenants with improved means to achieve home ownership, thereby vacating their PRH units for those who are waiting for PRH allocation. (THB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
 - Explore the possibility of allowing owners of subsidised sale flats with premium not yet paid to let their flats in order to help families with housing needs. (THB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

Starter Homes

- Rebuild the housing ladder to provide families in different income brackets with the opportunity to become home owners. Subject to the availability of suitable sites and without compromising public housing supply, we will introduce affordable Starter Homes, to bring new hope of home ownership. (THB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

Private Residential Property Market

- Implement appropriate demand-side management measures, including the Special Stamp Duty, Buyer's Stamp Duty and New Residential Stamp Duty, to:
 - stabilise the residential property market; and

- accord priority to the housing needs of Hong Kong permanent residents in the midst of the tight supply situation. (THB)

Improving Quality of Living in Public Rental Housing

- The HKHA launched a three-year programme in 2016 to increase the provision of recreational and associated facilities for the elderly in about 100 PRH estates with a higher proportion of elderly residents. The programme is expected to be completed in 2019. The HKHA will review the effectiveness of the programme and consider extending the programme to other estates in due course. Meanwhile, the HKHA is implementing lift addition projects in PRH estates to improve existing pedestrian access. (THB)
- Implement sustainable public housing developments by designing for green and healthy living, and adopt the universal design concept to provide a safe and convenient living environment for different types of tenants, including people of all ages and abilities. (THB)
- Continue with various environmental initiatives in PRH estates, and enhance awareness of waste reduction among PRH residents to achieve the target of municipal solid waste (MSW) reduction. We will also continue our greening efforts in new public housing developments. (THB)
- Continue with the rectification works to replace water pipes in the 11 affected PRH developments with excess lead in drinking water in order to resolve the problem completely as soon as possible. To date, rectification works in the common areas of the 11 affected PRH developments have been completed, while the rectification works inside domestic flats have started in full swing since the second quarter of 2017. (THB)

Building Maintenance and Urban Renewal

- Launch “Operation Building Bright 2.0” to subsidise owner-occupiers for undertaking rehabilitation works in respect of aged buildings in need of repair. In parallel, subsidise eligible owners to strengthen the fire safety measures for old composite buildings for compliance with the requirements of Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 572). (DEVB/SB) (New Initiative)
- Launch the Building Management Dispute Resolution Service to enhance support for owners, owners’ corporations and residents’ organisations. (HAB) (New Initiative)
- Continue to implement the Phase 3 Building Management Professional Advisory Service Scheme to enhance professional support for owners of old buildings and assist owners of “three nil” buildings in forming owners’ corporations and discharging their responsibilities in building management. (HAB)
- Draw up the proposed amendments to the Building Management Ordinance and review the Codes of Practice to include the best practices of building management. (HAB)
- Follow up the implementation of the Property Management Services Ordinance by assisting the Property Management Services Authority in implementing a licensing scheme for regulating property management services. (HAB)
- Continue to enforce the Lifts and Escalators Ordinance to exercise regulatory control over lift and escalator safety, and continue to draw the attention of Responsible Persons on the need to fulfil their obligations under the ordinance and to timely modernise their aged lifts and escalators to enhance their safety and reliability, through education and publicity. (DEVB)

- Introduce legislation for enhancing fire safety standards of old industrial buildings, and strengthen the manpower for inspection of industrial buildings and the related enforcement actions. (SB)
- Strengthen fire safety measures particularly in old buildings and enhance public awareness of fire prevention. (SB)
- Continue with the efforts to enhance maintenance of private buildings through public education, publicity and participation of professional bodies. (DEVB)
- Work closely with the Hong Kong Housing Society and the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) to assist building owners in need to carry out repair and maintenance works through various schemes, including:
 - the Building Maintenance Grant Scheme for Elderly Owners;
 - the Integrated Building Maintenance Assistance Scheme;
 - the Mandatory Building Inspection Subsidy Scheme; and
 - “Smart Tender” Building Rehabilitation Facilitating Services. (DEVB)

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- Work closely with the URA to support its implementation of redevelopment projects under a holistic and district-based approach with a view to enhancing overall planning benefits for the community. Meanwhile, we will support the URA in conducting a district planning study to explore how to enhance the efficiency of existing land use and redevelopment potential of Yau Ma Tei and Mong Kok districts, with a view to identifying more effective and efficient ways for urban renewal as well as a practical and feasible modus operandi for adoption in other districts. (DEVB)
 - Continue to implement the Pilot Scheme on Outreach Support Service for Minority Owners to provide relevant information and appropriate support services to owners of old buildings affected by compulsory sale. (DEVB)

Enhancing Building Safety

- Conduct a consultancy study on the formulation of a set of design standards for seismic-resistant buildings, with a view to further enhancing building safety in Hong Kong. (DEVB)

Transportation

Strategic Studies on Railways and Major Roads

- Subject to approval of funding by the Legislative Council, the Government will take forward the Strategic Studies on Railways and Major Roads Beyond 2030 according to the planning directions for Hong Kong beyond 2030, so that the planning of major transport infrastructure can complement the needs arising from the overall long-term land development of Hong Kong. (THB)

Developing Railways

- Enhance accessibility within Hong Kong according to the “centred on public transport with railway as the backbone” principle, by, inter alia, implementing the seven new railway projects under the Railway Development Strategy 2014 in an orderly manner. In particular, the Government strives to undertake public consultation on the Tuen Mun South Extension and the Northern Link (and Kwu Tung Station) in 2018, and will take forward detailed planning for the East Kowloon Line, the Tung Chung West Extension (and Tung Chung East Station) and the North Island Line. (THB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Co-ordinate and oversee the construction of the Shatin to Central Link, with a view to commissioning the “Tai Wai to Hung Hom Section” and the “Hung Hom to Admiralty Section” of the Link in mid 2019 and 2021 respectively in accordance with the revised targets put forward by the MTRCL. (THB)
- Reach a Co-operation Arrangement with the Mainland in relation to the customs, immigration and quarantine procedures of the Hong Kong Section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL), seek the approval and endorsement of the Co-operation Arrangement by the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress through a decision to be made by the Standing Committee, and commence the local legislative process thereafter, so as to meet the target of implementing the co-location arrangement at the West Kowloon Station upon the commissioning of the project in the third quarter of 2018. (THB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

Implementing Recommended Measures under the Public Transport Strategy Study

- Organise a multi-stakeholder exchange session in 2018 for different stakeholders in the public transport sector, including operators of franchised buses, mini-buses and taxis, to engage in meaningful discussions to rationalise their roles and to improve Hong Kong’s public transport ecosystem. (THB) (New Initiative)
- Launch the pilot trials of two new types of franchised bus services, viz. (i) new long-haul bus services providing more spacious seating and all-seater service with better facilities and fewer stops; and (ii) mid-sized single-deck buses for short-haul shuttle services in areas in the New Territories with relatively lower population density but with growth potential. Our target is to roll out one or two routes for each type of new service on a trial basis. We expect to introduce these trial services progressively from late 2018/early 2019. (THB) (New Initiative)
- Introduce franchised taxis to meet the new demand in the community for personalised and point-to-point public transport services. These taxis will provide higher quality service for a higher fare, and will have “online hailing” features. The Government is preparing the legislative work. (THB) (New Initiative)

Taking Forward Transport Infrastructure Projects

- In view of the social and economic development of Hong Kong, as well as the changes in traffic demand, we will take forward transport infrastructure projects to enhance local transport network in a timely manner. Road projects under planning and requiring prompt implementation include Cross Bay Link (CBL), Tseung Kwan O (TKO) and the widening of Tai Po Road (Sha Tin Section), which are set out as follows:
 - CBL, TKO: the proposed CBL at TKO will connect the Tseung Kwan O-Lam Tin Tunnel (TKO-LTT) (currently under construction) in the west and Wan Po Road near LOHAS Park in the east. If CBL is not provided upon the commissioning of TKO-LTT, the traffic from the tunnel portal of TKO-LTT to Area 86 and TKO Industrial Estate will have to go through Po Yap Road and many signal-controlled junctions, causing traffic congestion in the vicinity of TKO Town Centre.
 - Widening of Tai Po Road (Sha Tin Section): Tai Po Road (Sha Tin Section) is an important primary distributor road linking the Northeast New Territories with West Kowloon (through Tsing Sha Highway) and Tsuen Wan (through Shing Mun Tunnel). At present, traffic congestion frequently occurs at Tai Po Road (Sha Tin Section) between Sha Tin Rural Committee Road and Fo Tan Road during peak hours. Therefore, we propose to implement the Widening of Tai Po Road (Sha Tin Section) project to meet traffic demand. (THB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

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- Implement the Central Kowloon Route (CKR) project, which will link the Yau Ma Tei Interchange in West Kowloon with Kowloon Bay and the Kai Tak Development in East Kowloon. It will enhance the capacity of major east-west road corridors in Kowloon, thus relieving traffic congestion and meeting future traffic demands. Upon the commissioning of CKR, the journey time between West Kowloon and Kowloon Bay via CKR will be around five minutes during rush hours, about 25 minutes less compared with current journey time. (THB)
 - In view of the long-term developments in Northwest New Territories, including the proposed Hung Shui Kiu New Development Area and Yuen Long South development, we need a new strategic route (Route 11) to connect Northwest New Territories and the urban areas to cope with the increase in traffic demand. At the same time, we need to improve the “external connectivity” of Lantau and the airport island. The Route 11 will provide a third strategic access to Lantau on top of Tsing Ma Bridge and Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Link, thus enhancing the robustness of the road network connecting to the airport. Subject to approval of funding by the Legislative Council, the Government will conduct a feasibility study on Route 11 to link up North Lantau and Yuen Long. (THB)

Improving Road Traffic

- Oversee the construction of the Central-Wan Chai Bypass and the Island Eastern Corridor Link, originally scheduled for completion in 2017 but hampered by delays due to unforeseeable problems in work site handover, with a view to overcoming the challenges and exploring feasible options for commissioning of the project in late 2018/first quarter of 2019. (THB)

- Oversee the construction of the TKO-LTT with a view to completing it in 2021. The Tunnel, together with the Trunk Road T2 under planning and the proposed CKR, will form Route 6, which will link West Kowloon with TKO. (THB)
- Continue to pursue bus route rationalisation vigorously to enhance network efficiency, improve service quality, ease traffic congestion and reduce roadside air pollution. (THB)
- Continue to enhance the service quality and operating environment of taxis. (THB)

Monitoring of the MTR Corporation Limited

- With a view to enhancing our monitoring of the MTRCL in tandem with railway development, we require the MTRCL to:
 - deliver new railway projects in a cost-effective manner;
 - provide safe and reliable railway services;
 - continue to suitably respond to public views on matters related to fares, having regard to the financial viability of the MTRCL as a listed company;
 - renew its railway assets in a timely manner; and
 - maintain an overall high standard of corporate governance. (THB)

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- Relieve the congestion at the MTR network during peak periods by requesting the MTRCL to:
 - continue to implement the signalling system replacement works to increase the carrying capacity of the railway;
 - monitor passenger flow at stations and on platforms during peak hours and disseminate timely information to alert the public; and
 - explore other possible measures to divert passenger flow during peak hours. (THB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
 - Invite the MTRCL to explore the feasibility of providing free Wi-Fi on all its trains. (THB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

Ancillary Facilities for Public Transport and Fare

- Continue our effort to alleviate road traffic congestion by implementing measures such as taking forward the study on the overall strategy for the rationalisation of traffic distribution among the three road harbour crossings and the three land tunnels between Kowloon and Sha Tin, commencing a consultancy study on parking for commercial vehicles, and conducting a feasibility study for the Electronic Road Pricing Pilot Scheme in Central and its adjacent areas, with a view to making early preparation for implementing the pilot scheme in Central and its adjacent areas to improve traffic flow with the aid of technology. (THB)
- The Government is discussing with franchised bus operators the proposed updates to the data adopted in the existing Fare Adjustment Arrangement. We expect to conclude the discussion and to implement the updates in the first half of 2018 upon approval by the Chief Executive-in-Council. (THB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

- In the mid-term review (in the first half of 2019) for the current three-year licence period (2017-20), the Government will review whether the special helping measures would be the most desirable long-term operation model for maintaining the financial viability of ferry services. This review will cover, inter alia, a detailed study on extending the licence duration and the feasibility of providing full subsidy to ferry operators for replacement of vessels. The objective is to ensure service quality, long-term financial sustainability of ferry operation, and a fair adjustment of fares. (THB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Continue to take forward pilot renovation projects to enhance the design and facilities of suitable covered public transport interchanges and ferry piers with a view to providing passengers with a better waiting environment. (THB)
- Continue to subsidise the installation of seats and bus arrival information display panels at suitable bus stops in phases by franchised bus companies for passengers' convenience. (THB)
- Implement the trial scheme on low-floor wheelchair-accessible light bus service and ascertain whether it would be feasible and desirable to use this type of light buses to serve hospital routes. (THB)
- Continue to provide subsidies to facilitate the replacement of tram tracks at key locations with new technology to provide more comfortable service for passengers and reduce the impact of track replacement works on traffic. (THB)
- Introduce a non-means tested Public Transport Fare Subsidy Scheme to relieve the fare burden of commuters. (THB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

Marine Safety

- Implement the improvement measures regarding the regulatory regime on local passenger-carrying vessels to enhance marine safety. We will continue to follow up the recommendations in the report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Collision of Vessels near Lamma Island on 1 October 2012. (THB)

Improving Pedestrian Environment

- Continue with the arrangement of waiving the land premium for lease modification to encourage private landowners to construct footbridges or subways at their own cost. (DEVB)
- Continue to promote “Walk in HK” with a view to fostering a pedestrian-friendly environment by:
 - providing covers on certain walkways connecting to public transport facilities and exploring the relaxation of existing requirements for adding covers to such walkways as stipulated in the Transport Planning and Design Manual;
 - selecting two areas in Hong Kong for pilot study to test out innovative measures for a comfortable walking environment;
 - enhancing the design of pedestrian wayfinding map board on the streets with reference to overseas experiences and conducting public engagement exercise in 2018;
 - enhancing the functions of HKeTransport to enable citizens to use the application to plan and search for the best walking routes, with the first phase of enhancement, covering major shopping areas of Causeway Bay, launching in end 2017;

- continuing to progressively take forward the construction works of hillside escalator links and elevator system projects and elevated walkway projects in different districts;
 - continuing to take forward the proposed pedestrian environment improvement scheme in Mong Kok. In Yuen Long, we will strive to implement the Elevated Pedestrian Corridor in Yuen Long Town Connecting with Long Ping Station project to relieve congestion at footpaths and improve the environment for pedestrians in the district;
 - commencing a study on enhancing pedestrian connectivity between Wan Chai and Sheung Wan; and
 - commencing a study in end 2017 to review and improve the assessment mechanism for proposed hillside escalator links projects. (THB)
- Continue to implement the “Universal Accessibility” Programme to retrofit barrier-free access facilities at existing walkways to benefit the elderly and those who need such access. We have already invited the 18 District Councils (DCs) to nominate items for implementation in the next phase, and will commence the feasibility study and design works for these items in end 2017. (THB)
- Continue to establish “bicycle-friendly” new towns and new development areas to reduce carbon emissions from vehicles by such measures as continuing to improve existing cycle tracks and cycle parking facilities in new towns in phases (100 of these sites are expected to be improved by end 2018). (DEVB/THB)

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- Continue to take forward the development of the cycle track network in the New Territories by constructing the Tuen Mun to Sheung Shui section; commencing the detailed design of the Tuen Mun to So Kwun Wat section and Tsuen Wan to Bayview Garden section (advance works); and reviewing the alignment of the remainder of the Tsuen Wan to Tuen Mun section. (DEVB)

Enhancing External Transport Links

- Continue to improve Hong Kong's international connectivity, with measures including the timely implementation of the Three-Runway System. (THB) ([New Initiative](#))
- Work with the AAHK to implement initiatives to enhance airport capacity and airport services. Subsequent to the commissioning of the Midfield Concourse, the remaining parts of the midfield expansion project will be completed in phases by 2020. (THB)
- Form new aviation partnership and review air services agreements with our existing partners, with a view to further liberalising our air service regime, thereby supporting the continued growth and development of the local civil aviation industry. Of the 60 or so Belt and Road countries, Hong Kong has signed air services agreements or international air services transit agreements with 41, including the agreed amendment to the air services agreement with Israel in June 2017. We will continue with such efforts and seek to discuss air services agreements with other aviation partners along the Belt and Road routes. This will reinforce Hong Kong's position as an international aviation hub. (THB)
- Assist the AAHK in expanding inter-modal connections to strengthen the links between the Hong Kong International Airport and the Pearl River Delta region. (THB)

- Continue to oversee the construction of the Hong Kong section of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (i.e. the Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities and Hong Kong Link Road) to dovetail with the commissioning of the Main Bridge within Mainland waters; and continue to oversee the construction of the Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Link for early commissioning. (THB)
- Continue to co-ordinate and oversee the construction of the Hong Kong Section of the XRL and take forward various pre-commissioning preparation works with a view to accomplishing the targeted commissioning of service in the third quarter of 2018. (THB)
- Continue to oversee the construction of the Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point on Hong Kong side and go full steam ahead with the construction of the connecting road and the Passenger Terminal Building, with a view to completing the Boundary Control Point in end 2018. (DEVB)

Environmental Protection

Energy

- Further promote energy efficiency and conservation by working with the power companies under the post-2018 Scheme of Control Agreements to introduce, among others, new energy saving funds and demand response programmes. We will also expand the existing energy efficiency funds and energy saving loan funds. (ENB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

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- Further promote the development of renewable energy (RE) by, inter alia, introducing Feed-in Tariff and RE Certificates Schemes under the post-2018 Scheme of Control Agreements. The Government will also explore how best to develop RE facilities at government premises. In addition, the Water Supplies Department will explore the feasibility of implementation of large-scale floating solar farms over the surface of impounding reservoirs in Hong Kong based on the results of the pilot schemes of floating photovoltaic systems at Shek Pik Reservoir and Plover Cove Reservoir. The Government will also study the potential of installing photovoltaic systems in Hong Kong buildings and examine the relevant issues involved. (ENB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

Improving Air Quality

Green Technology, Emissions Standards and Air Quality Objectives

- Introduce new legislation to mandate vessels to use low sulphur fuel within Hong Kong waters from January 2019 onwards. (ENB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Explore the launching of a pilot scheme for local ferries to adopt green technologies to reduce emissions. (ENB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Explore the launching of a pilot scheme for new government vessels to adopt green technologies to reduce emissions. (ENB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Issue the Seventh Technical Memorandum in 2017 with a view to further tightening the air pollutant emission caps for power companies from 2022 onwards. (ENB)
- Encourage the transport sector and non-profit-making organisations to test out green and innovative transport technologies through the Pilot Green Transport Fund. (ENB)

- Continue to implement an incentive-cum-regulatory scheme to phase out progressively by the end of 2019 some 82 000 highly polluting diesel commercial vehicles which only comply with pre-Euro or Euro I to III emission standards to improve roadside air quality. (ENB)
- Run electric franchised buses on a trial basis. (ENB)
- Continue to enhance the charging network for electric vehicles. (ENB)
- Continue with the review of the Air Quality Objectives, consult stakeholders via a working group and engage the public via briefing sessions to gauge their views on measures to improve air quality, and explore the room for further tightening of the Air Quality Objectives. The aim is to submit a review report to the Advisory Council on the Environment in 2018. (ENB)

Regional Co-operation

- Continue to implement and further enhance the Pearl River Delta Regional Air Quality Management Plan together with the Guangdong Provincial Government to keep improving regional air quality. (ENB)
- Conduct a mid-term review with the Guangdong Provincial Government to assess the achievements made in emission reduction of air pollutants in the two places in 2015 and finalise the emission reduction targets for 2020. (ENB)
- Conduct a study with the governments of Guangdong and Macao on fine suspended particulates (PM_{2.5}) for the Pearl River Delta region to provide a robust scientific basis for mapping out the strategies for further improvement in regional air quality. (ENB)

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- Co-operate with the Guangdong Provincial Government for enhancing exchanges and training in the two places in respect of regional air quality monitoring and air pollution forecasting technologies. (ENB)
 - Implement the Cleaner Production Partnership Programme in collaboration with the Guangdong Provincial Government to continue to promote cleaner production technologies and practices among Hong Kong-owned factories in Guangdong and Hong Kong to enhance energy efficiency and reduce pollutant emissions, thereby improving quality of the regional environment. (ENB)

Enhancing Waste Management

Reducing Waste and Promoting Recycling

- Set up a new Food Waste Recycling Group under the Environmental Protection Department to implement source separation and collection of food waste, study and formulate new regulatory measures, including mandatory source separation of food waste starting with the significant food waste generators in the commercial and industrial sectors. (ENB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Launch a new phase of Food Wise Hong Kong Campaign to sustain the momentum in promoting the “Food Wise” culture with a view to reducing food waste at source and facilitating food waste recycling. (ENB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

- Continue to implement “A Food Waste & Yard Waste Plan for Hong Kong”, efforts of which include cultivating the “Food Wise” culture through the Food Wise Hong Kong Campaign and Food Wise Eateries Scheme, food waste reduction and recycling projects at housing estates, strengthened support to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in collecting surplus food for donation to the needy, as well as appropriate professional support to schools and tertiary institutions for on-site treatment of food waste. (ENB)
- Plan to develop the Organic Resources Recovery Centre (ORRC) Phase 3 to build up the food waste recycling capacity of the ORRC network. (ENB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Continue to implement administrative regulatory measures to require that waste cooking oils produced by local licensed food premises be recycled through legitimate means, and consider amendments to the Waste Disposal Ordinance to strengthen the regulation of waste cooking oils. (ENB/FHB)
- Set up new outreach teams under the Environmental Protection Department, which will educate the public with on-site guidance and hands-on demonstration, and deliver latest and key green messages to the community through regular visits, with a view to strengthening the field support for waste reduction at source and clean recycling, as well as bettering community preparedness for quantity-based charging for MSW. (ENB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Promote waste reduction and recycling by driving behavioural changes through the introduction of legislative proposal on MSW charging and the collaboration with various sectors to conduct community involvement projects. (ENB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Continue with the development of Community Green Stations in phases across the territory. (ENB)

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- Through territory-wide and district-based programmes as well as collaboration with DCs, we will continue to encourage public participation in waste reduction at source and clean recycling, provide infrastructural support for recycling activities and facilitate the sustainable development of the recycling industry, thereby alleviating the pressure on landfills. (ENB)
 - Introduce a new service to centrally collect waste plastic bottles received by Community Recycling Centres and, where necessary, direct from the sources across the territory for delivery to competent recyclers for onward processing, thereby enhancing operational standards and efficiency of the recycling trade with better support to the collection and recycling of waste plastic bottles. (ENB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
 - Consult the Advisory Committee on Recycling Fund and introduce need-driven “theme-based schemes” under the Recycling Fund to better address the needs and concerns of the recycling industry. Measures include a new scheme for which the fund has earmarked \$20 million as subsidies for the industry to secure plastic waste processing facilities, and \$50 million for recyclers to purchase compactor trucks for collecting recyclables in a more efficient manner. (ENB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

“Polluter Pays” Principle and Producer Responsibility Schemes

- Implement in phases the two mandatory producer responsibility schemes on waste electrical and electronic equipment and glass beverage containers. (ENB)
- Take forward the feasibility study on introducing mandatory producer responsibility schemes for suitable plastic product containers. (ENB)

- Prepare legislation to mandate the use of Global Positioning System on construction waste collection vehicles to facilitate enforcement action against fly-tipping of construction waste. (ENB)

Waste-to-energy and Other Waste Treatment Facilities

- Implement trial schemes on source separation and collection of food waste generated from markets managed by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department as well as commercial premises leased out by the HKHA, for delivery to and treatment by the phase 1 project of the ORRCs, which will be commissioned in early 2018, with a view to encouraging the commercial and industrial sectors to recycle food waste properly and achieving the waste-to-energy purpose. (ENB)
- Commission the phase 1 project of the ORRCs and expedite the assessment of tenders for the phase 2 project before seeking funding approval from the Legislative Council. In parallel, we will continue with the tendering exercise for the Food Waste/ Sewage Sludge Anaerobic Co-digestion Trial Scheme. (ENB)
- Complete the tendering exercise and commence the design and construction works for the phase 1 project of the Integrated Waste Management Facilities for MSW treatment. (ENB)
- Continue with the study for the planning of future waste management and transfer facilities to meet Hong Kong's needs up to 2041. (ENB)
- Pursue extension of landfills. (ENB)

Green Construction and Green Economy

- Continue with the consultancy study to review the current arrangement under which a development project is only required to register for BEAM Plus as a prerequisite for application for gross floor area concession for amenity features, with a view to further promoting green buildings in the private market. The consultancy study is expected to complete in 2019. (DEVB)
- Actively apply green specifications in government procurement as well as cleansing and vehicle hiring service contracts, while seeking to widen the scope of green procurement in public works projects. In parallel, we will continue to encourage the business sectors and the public to adopt green procurement practices. (ENB)
- Support Hong Kong's environmental industry in participating in environmental exhibitions, so as to promote the exchange of environmental technologies and services. (ENB)

Devoting Resources to Nature and Countryside Conservation

- Earmark resources to establish a Countryside Conservation Office to co-ordinate cross-departmental efforts for the sustainable development of countryside areas, selecting Lai Chi Wo and Sha Lo Tung as pilot projects for implementation. (ENB) ([New Initiative](#))
- Carry on with the preparatory work to designate Robin's Nest as a new country park. (ENB)
- Implement the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan as Hong Kong's long-term blueprint for nature conservation and sustainable development. (ENB)

- Work with the Legislative Council with a view to expediting the scrutiny of the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants (Amendment) Bill 2017, which aims at phasing out local trade in elephant ivory and imposing heavier penalties on smuggling and illegal trade of endangered species. The Government will continue to step up law enforcement against the smuggling and illegal trade of ivory. (ENB)
- Follow up the drafting of legislation to set up a control scheme for the trading of toothfish in Hong Kong to meet the requirements of the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources. (FHB)

Climate Change

Combating Climate Change

- The Chief Secretary for Administration will continue to steer bureaux and departments to adopt measures of mitigation, adaptation and resilience to combat climate change, with a view to reducing our carbon intensity by 65% to 70% by 2030 compared with the 2005 level. Most of the coal-fired power generation units due to retire will be gradually replaced by cleaner fuels, while energy saving and RE will be further promoted in order to help achieve the goal of keeping global average temperature rise within two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels under the Paris Agreement. (ENB)
- Deploy the earmarked \$200 million for the Government to install RE facilities in government buildings, venues and facilities to promote the development of RE, reduce carbon emissions and mitigate the impact of climate change. (ENB)

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- The Environment and Conservation Fund will allocate the earmarked \$10 million to subsidise non-profit-making organisations to carry out publicity and educational activities and demonstration projects with climate change as the theme, with a view to strengthening publicity and public education to encourage the community to make concerted efforts to combat climate change. (ENB)

Energy Conservation

- Bureaux and departments will start to conduct regular carbon audits on major government buildings and disclose their carbon emission information, with a view to exploring room for carbon reduction. (ENB)
- Consider the provision of district cooling systems in new development areas, including the topside development at the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities and the Tung Chung New Town Extension. (ENB)
- Continue to achieve the target of reducing electricity consumption by 5% for government buildings in the financial years from 2015-16 to 2019-20 under comparable operating conditions (taking the 2013-14 financial year as the baseline). Funding of not less than \$500 million has been earmarked for this purpose. (ENB)
- Continue with the “Energy Saving for All” Campaign to promote energy saving for combating climate change. Our efforts include inviting various sectors to sign up for the Energy Saving Charter to pledge to maintain the average indoor temperature at their premises between 24 and 26 degrees Celsius during mid-summer, switch off electrical appliances when they are not in use and procure energy-efficient appliances. (ENB)

- Expand the scope of the Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme to cover more types of electrical appliances so as to help the public choose more energy-efficient electrical appliances for energy conservation. (ENB)

Cherish the Water

- We aim at reducing the per capita fresh water consumption by 10% by 2030 at the earliest, using 2016 as the base year. To achieve this, we will take forward a host of measures, including enhancing collaboration with various stakeholders; implementing the Mandatory Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme through legislative amendments; making wider use of Automatic Meter Reading systems to enhance awareness of water conservation; establishing the Water Intelligent Network and replacing and rehabilitating aged government water mains; and taking specific measures to deal with the leakage problem at private water mains, including provision of necessary technical advice and support to property owners and management agents and assistance to the market in developing expertise, stepped up monitoring and enforcement actions, and exploring imposing water charges on property owners according to the amount of estimated water loss from their private mains through legislative amendments. (DEVB) ([New Initiative](#))
- Continue with the review of the Total Water Management Strategy to ensure sustainable use of precious water resources and timely introduction of new initiatives to strengthen our resilience and preparedness against challenges brought about by climate change. (DEVB)

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- Take forward the tendering exercise for the desalination plant at Tseung Kwan O and commence the construction of its associated infrastructure. We will also continue to take forward the initiative of the use of reclaimed water for non-potable purposes in North East New Territories (including Sheung Shui and Fanling). The advance infrastructure works have commenced while the development of an appropriate financial and legal framework for the supply of reclaimed water in Hong Kong is underway. (DEVB)

External Lighting

- Continue to implement the Charter on External Lighting to encourage owners or persons-in-charge of external lighting installations to switch off external lighting of decorative, promotional or advertising purposes at the preset time, and organise educational and publicity activities to enhance public awareness of issues associated with external lighting. (ENB)

Beautifying Victoria Harbour

- Upon completion of a two-year consultancy study on further upgrading inshore water quality and the general environment of the Victoria Harbour later this year, the Government will progressively implement the recommendations therein. Measures and improvement works will be planned to further reduce the discharge of pollutants to the harbour and address the near-shore odour problem, thereby maintaining the water quality and cleanliness of the harbour. (ENB)
- Continue to monitor and assess the progress of improvement in the water quality of the Victoria Harbour. (ENB)

- In addition to taking forward specified harbourfront development initiatives through the dedicated funding, the Government will further partner with the Harbourfront Commission to engage stakeholders in the community, including DCs and NGOs, to undertake pilot projects to activate the harbourfront. These include considering the provision of suitable harbourfront sites for NGOs to organise and operate appropriate short-term events or facilities. (DEVB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Pending further deliberations on the proposal of establishing a statutory Harbourfront Authority, the Government will continue to partner with the Harbourfront Commission and implement harbourfront enhancement initiatives through a dedicated team and with dedicated funding of \$500 million for the first stage. The aim is to further extend the waterfront promenade along both sides of the Victoria Harbour, beautify areas in the vicinity and improve accessibility to the waterfront for the enjoyment of all. (DEVB)

Urban Forestry

- Formulate an urban forestry management strategy and develop proper urban arboricultural practices with a holistic approach. We will continue to develop sustainable urban landscapes, promote vegetation diversity, and draw up a practice note on urban arboriculture. (DEVB)
- Deliver higher quality landscape planning and design through a multi-pronged approach and proactive strategy for enriching vegetation diversity and create community spaces to enhance the outdoor environs, while undertaking more diligent vegetation management and maintenance. (DEVB)

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- Promote capacity-building for the arboriculture and horticulture industry and assist the Arboriculture and Horticulture Industry Training Advisory Committee in developing a qualification framework. (DEVB)
 - Raise awareness among the general public on urban forestry, including lifecycle planning and life expectancy for trees and the concept of “Right Tree, Right Place”. (DEVB)
 - Apply smart technology in tree management for overall enhancement of quality and efficiency of tree risk assessment. (DEVB) (New Initiative)
 - Implement a more effective risk management strategy for stonewall trees. (DEVB)
 - Collaborate with experts and research institutions on Brown Root Rot disease to conduct research on its diagnosis and prevention, with a view to developing a more comprehensive, proactive and effective management strategy. (DEVB) (New Initiative)

Sports Development

- Assist our national sports associations (NSAs) in staging more sports competitions and events by designating and enhancing suitable sports facilities as competition venues. (HAB) (New Initiative)
- Enhance the current funding framework to better support Hong Kong’s hosting of various types of major international sports events. (HAB)

- Forge ahead with the Kai Tak Sports Park project, which is scheduled for completion in 2022-23, to provide facilities of international standard for the promotion of holistic sports development, and to attract more international sports events and competitions to Hong Kong. (HAB)
- Propose to launch a five-year enhancement programme for team-only sports, with 2022 Asian Games as the target, under which additional resources from the Arts and Sport Development Fund will be provided to both the sports and members of the Hong Kong representative teams to help them enhance their performance gradually with a view to achieving elite sport status under a new Elite Vote Support System for team-only sports. (HAB) (New Initiative)
- Support the Hong Kong Sports Institute in studying the strategy for enhancing the training of elite athletes and the relevant initiatives regarding coach training, sports science, sports medicine, etc. We will also inject \$1 billion into the Elite Athletes Development Fund and provide additional resources, if necessary, for raising the international standards of local athletes. (HAB)
- Support the NSAs in further enhancing their corporate governance and organising more international sports events and competitions, as well as launching more community sports programmes. (HAB)
- Support the long-term development of football by providing funding for the Hong Kong Football Association for the implementation of its five-year strategic plan. (HAB)
- Implement the following measures based on the recommendations of the consultancy report and comments obtained from public consultation on Sport for People with Disabilities in Hong Kong:

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- the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) will encourage more people with disabilities (PWD) to participate in sports by providing a one-stop information platform, enhancing venue support, increasing the number and variety of suitable programmes, strengthening the liaison network with special schools and providing additional subvention for NSAs for disability sports;
 - the LCSD will launch a pilot scheme on advance booking services for PWD. Relevant organisations will enjoy priority in booking specified LCSD sports venues for non-peak-hour sessions for the organisation of sports activities for the disabled such as training courses and competitions;
 - launching outreach recreation and sports services: working with relevant NSAs and sports organisations for PWD to provide outreach services, including centre-based sports activities, so as to help PWD develop healthy sporting habits and save on transportation time and arrangements;
 - using the 2018 Jakarta Asian Para Games as a pilot, we will introduce a full-time athlete system and implement a Pilot Scheme for Elite Vote Support System for disability sports;
 - assist the Hong Kong Paralympic Committee in its establishment as an independent body and provide it with subvention in order to enhance its support for athletes with disabilities in a more systematic manner through, for example, handling of matters relating to classification in para-sports, and promotion and development of different kinds of para-sports, thus further steering them in the direction of elite sports. (HAB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

- Propose that the Research Grants Council and local universities encourage the undertaking of applied research relating to sports development by providing necessary funding and support. (HAB) (New Initiative)
- Propose to inject \$9 million into the Hong Kong Athletes Fund to provide financial support for active and retired athletes to pursue further education and to provide one-off grants for eligible full-time athletes upon their retirement to help them develop alternative careers. (HAB) (New Initiative)
- Endeavour to facilitate hosting of mega events and activities in Kowloon East that are popular with the general public and tourists, and co-use of the Kwun Tong Typhoon Shelter water body for water recreation activities. (DEVB)
- Take forward the Five-Year Plan for Sports and Recreational Facilities to increase and enhance the provision of district facilities, with a view to promoting sports for all. (HAB)
- Develop a new intelligent system for Hong Kong's public sports and recreational services to allow more efficient, convenient and user-friendly booking of the sports and recreational facilities provided by the LCSD, thereby encouraging members of the public to exercise regularly and lead a healthy lifestyle. (HAB)

Testing and Transportation Hub for Competition Horses

- Continue our collaboration with the Mainland on the development of Hong Kong Jockey Club's Guangzhou Horse Training Centre and Equine-Disease Free Zone to strengthen Hong Kong's testing services for equine diseases, with a view to facilitating Hong Kong's development into a testing centre and transportation hub for horses for international competitions. (FHB)

Arts and Culture

- Enhance co-operation with renowned Mainland and overseas museums and cultural institutions in organising more major exhibitions as well as education programmes and professional exchanges in order to reinforce Hong Kong's position as an international cultural metropolis. (HAB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Provide additional financial resources for arts groups of various sizes to enable them to explore opportunities outside Hong Kong and to promote our cultural soft-power to other places. (HAB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Provide funding in the coming six years for continuing the training scheme for arts administrators, with a view to grooming more artistic talent and supporting the further development of Hong Kong's arts and culture. (HAB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

Supporting Arts Groups

- Provide funding and other support for the major performing arts groups to stage quality performing arts programmes for the community and display the unique arts and cultural landscape of Hong Kong. (HAB)

- Continue to support the Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC) in providing support to small and medium arts groups. (HAB)
- Continue to implement the Arts Capacity Development Funding Scheme and Art Development Matching Grants Pilot Scheme to encourage different sectors of the community to sponsor local arts and cultural activities. (HAB)

West Kowloon Cultural District

- Expedite the development of the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) to establish Hong Kong's position as a cultural hub and enrich the cultural life of the public:
 - facilitating the WKCD Authority in preparing for the opening of the Xiqu Centre and Art Park;
 - monitoring the development of arts and cultural facilities by the WKCD Authority, including the planning and construction of the Hong Kong Palace Museum; and
 - co-ordinating interface issues of the WKCD with the integrated basement, public infrastructure and community facility projects in the vicinity. (HAB)

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- Implement an enhanced financial arrangement through which the government-owned development right of the hotel/office/residential portion of the WKCD will be granted to the WKCD Authority. The WKCD Authority may develop the hotel/office/residential facilities jointly with private sector through open tender and Build-Operate-Transfer arrangement and share rental revenue from such facilities to sustain the operation of the WKCD. With financing arrangement, the WKCD Authority can further develop the arts, cultural and related facilities, particularly a world-class music centre, under an organic growth approach. (HAB)

Opening Up Arts Space and Providing Facilities

- Support the Tai Po District Council and the HKADC in converting the premises of a vacant school in Tai Po into an arts centre to provide space for arts development. (HAB)
- Reserve a certain portion of floor area in the future development at a site in Aberdeen to provide space for the HKADC to support arts development. (HAB)
- Plan and build new cultural facilities to meet community needs, including the East Kowloon Cultural Centre to be constructed in Ngau Tau Kok, which is scheduled for completion by the end of 2020. (HAB)
- Expand and renovate the Hong Kong Museum of Art to provide additional gallery space for displaying the works of local and international artists. (HAB)
- Continue to plan and enhance library facilities and services, and organise educational activities in collaboration with schools and community groups to promote a reading culture. (HAB)

Promoting Arts and Cultural Programmes and Grooming Art Talent

- Promote the work of young and talented art practitioners to overseas, Mainland and local communities through:
 - various performing and visual arts programmes organised by the LCSD; and
 - acquisition and commissioning of local artists' artworks by the LCSD. (HAB)
- Promote knowledge and appreciation of various art forms through audience building, arts education and public art projects organised by the LCSD, the HKADC and other arts organisations funded by the Government. (HAB)
- Continue to launch major exhibitions at public museums and renew their permanent exhibitions for audience building. (HAB)

Cultural Exchange

- Continue to promote Hong Kong's arts and culture and cultural exchange on the Mainland and overseas through organising performances, exhibitions, seminars, forums, etc., and foster people-to-people bond under the Belt and Road Initiative and support Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area development. (HAB)

Heritage and History

- Enhance people's experience and appreciation of the history and cultural heritage of Hong Kong. (HAB)

Heritage Conservation

- Explore the construction of a Heritage Conservation and Resource Centre to enhance the institutional capacity and status of our museums in the acquisition, preservation, research and display of collections. (HAB) (New Initiative)
- Under the Built Heritage Conservation Fund, continue to work closely with selected non-profit-making organisations to implement the first four batches of projects under the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme and processing applications under the Financial Assistance for Maintenance Scheme and the funding schemes for public engagement projects and thematic research. (DEVB)
- Take forward Batch V of the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme. (DEVB)
- Continue to organise street carnival activities at the Hollywood Road area under “Heritage Vogue • Hollywood Road”. (DEVB) (New Initiative)
- Continue to take forward the conservation and revitalisation of the Central Police Station Compound in partnership with the Hong Kong Jockey Club. (DEVB)

Intangible Cultural Heritage

- Continue to enhance the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage, in particular the 20 items on the first Representative List announced in 2017, by strengthening our work in various aspects, including the identification, documentation, research, preservation, promotion and transmission of such heritage. (HAB)

Civic Affairs and Clean Society

- Work with the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education to promote civic education outside schools, with emphasis on the core civic values of “Respect and Inclusiveness”, “Responsibility” and “Love”, and encourage mutual respect and communication as well as tolerance towards people from diverse cultural backgrounds with different views and perspectives. (HAB)
- Work with the Ping Wo Fund Advisory Committee and relevant stakeholders to implement education and publicity initiatives as well as support services to address gambling problems. (HAB)
- Ride on the momentum of the multi-year “All for Integrity” Programme organised with different sectors, including district organisations, business sector, government departments and youth bodies, etc., to step up the publicity of anti-corruption messages to the general public, in particular grassroots citizens. (ICAC)
- Start the preparatory work for the commemorative events of the 45th anniversary of the Independent Commission Against Corruption in 2019, including the production of a television drama series and a new announcement of public interest, as well as a series of district activities targeted at the general public, in particular young people. (ICAC) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

Food Safety and Healthy Eating

- Review the export control of powdered formulae and explore long-term measures for safeguarding the stability of the local supply of powdered formulae. (FHB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

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- Review and optimise the information technology systems of the Centre for Food Safety to enhance data collection, analysis and risk assessment of imported food as well as food traceability. (FHB) (New Initiative)
 - Continue to review and update local food safety standards and regulatory arrangements, including those concerning metallic contaminants, harmful substances and levels of veterinary drug residues in food, edible fats and oils and cooked meat, as well as nutrition and health claims for formula products and prepackaged food for infants and young children. (FHB)
 - Continue to study the feasibility of reprovisioning and expanding the Food Safety Laboratory of the Government Laboratory to enhance its testing capability and operational efficiency for tests relating to food safety. (FHB)
 - Continue to implement a strategic plan for reducing the levels of salt and sugar in food to promote a healthy diet. (FHB)

Drinking Water Safety

- Continue to implement the Action Plan for Enhancing Drinking Water Safety in Hong Kong announced in September this year to restore public confidence in drinking water safety. The plan includes:
 - establishing a set of drinking water standards tailored for Hong Kong and monitoring consumers' drinking water quality so as to review the drinking water standards;
 - strengthening regulation on plumbing materials and the commissioning requirements for new plumbing installations;

- actively promoting the implementation of Water Safety Plan for buildings to facilitate proper cleansing and maintenance of pipes and fittings by property management agents;
 - enhancing public education and publicity on safe use of drinking water;
 - setting up an independent dedicated team in Development Bureau to take up the role of a water quality regulator, and conducting detailed studies to establish a drinking water safety regulatory regime suitable for Hong Kong; and
 - setting up an Advisory Committee on Drinking Water Safety to advise the Development Bureau on water safety issues and studies related to water safety regime. (DEVB)
- We have commenced a holistic review on the Waterworks Ordinance and Waterworks Regulations. We are also continuing with the following measures: consulting relevant stakeholders on the roles and responsibilities of the persons responsible for the design and construction of inside service (including developers, professionals, contractors, licensed plumbers and plumbing workers) and their registration systems, etc.; reviewing the need to regulate the suppliers of plumbing materials and to control the sale of plumbing materials in retail market; reviewing the penalty level of the offences with a view to increasing the deterrent effect; and enhancing the approval process for plumbing systems. We will submit our proposal for amending the Waterworks Ordinance and its subsidiary regulations in due course. (DEVB)

Municipal Services

- Deploy resources to improve cleanliness and enhance environmental hygiene through specific measures including:
 - setting up additional dedicated enforcement teams to strengthen law enforcement against public cleanliness offences;
 - extending the pilot scheme on the installation of Internet Protocol cameras at hygiene blackspots to cover all the 18 districts;
 - enhancing the supervision and management of outsourced cleansing contracts; and
 - enhancing mosquito and rodent control. (FHB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Study the need and feasibility of providing new public markets in districts where relevant facilities are alleged to be insufficient, and conduct a comprehensive review of existing public markets and formulate specific measures in a systematic manner to improve the facilities and management, including putting in resources to revitalise existing public markets. (FHB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Sustain our efforts to improve the fire safety and design of hawker stalls in 43 fixed-pitch hawker areas through the five-year assistance scheme launched in 2013. (FHB)

- Take forward the burial policy by adopting a three-pronged approach:
 - implementing the new regulatory regime for private columbaria;
 - expediting the development of public columbaria on shortlisted sites across the territory; and
 - promoting green burial. (FHB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

Live Poultry Trade

- Implement further bio-security improvement measures along the supply chain and enhance public education on avian influenza prevention. (FHB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

Safe and Quality Living Environment

- Conduct a comprehensive investigation on ageing pipelines in phases for timely identification of pipelines at high risk of structural failure; and strive to implement a risk-based programme for rehabilitation of aged stormwater drains and sewers. (DEVB/ENB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Review and evaluate the revitalisation potential of the major nullahs in Hong Kong with a view to identifying suitable nullahs for revitalisation. The aim is to enhance their ecological value, provide a greener environment, promote water friendliness and improve the community environment for building a liveable city. (DEVB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

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- Continue with the consultancy study for exploring the practicable options for applying the concept of revitalising water bodies to nullahs and river channels when carrying out large-scale drainage improvement works and drainage planning for new development areas. Apart from achieving efficient drainage, the initiative will promote greening, biodiversity, beautification and water friendliness; build sustainable drainage facilities; and provide a better living environment. (DEVB)
 - The Government will continue and enhance the joint efforts with the Mainland authorities under the Hong Kong-Guangdong Marine Environmental Management Special Panel to work out methods to reduce and manage floating refuse. (ENB)
 - Continue with the design of the improvement works for the Yuen Long Town Centre Nullah to enhance the quality of the local environment and the ecological value of the nullah. (DEVB)
 - Continue with the implementation of the Restored Landfill Revitalisation Funding Scheme for early conversion of the restored landfill sites for recreational, sports, environmental protection and other appropriate community uses. (ENB)
 - Continue with the Landslip Prevention and Mitigation Programme to:
 - upgrade and landscape government man-made slopes;
 - mitigate the landslide risk of natural terrain with known hazards; and
 - conduct safety screening studies for private slopes. (DEVB)

- Complete the phase 2 construction works of an underground stormwater storage tank in Happy Valley as well as the reconstruction and rehabilitation works of the Kai Tak River to alleviate the flood risks in the areas. (DEVB)
- Continue to review the Drainage Master Plans of Sha Tin, Sai Kung, Tai Po, Lantau and the outlying islands, Tuen Mun, Tsuen Wan, Kwai Tsing, North Hong Kong Island, Repulse Bay and Tai Tam to assess the flood risks in these districts and propose improvement measures. (DEVB)

Veterinary Surgeons Board

- Draw up regulations for the election of members from the veterinary profession to the Veterinary Surgeons Board of Hong Kong in accordance with the new provisions in the Veterinary Surgeons Registration (Amendment) Ordinance 2015, and support the Board in organising and holding the election. (FHB)

Animal Welfare

- Study the existing legislation related to animal welfare, and explore introducing a concept of positive duty of care on animal keepers. (FHB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

Chapter 6

Building a Caring, Inclusive Society, Improving People's Livelihood

Preamble

Whilst developing our economy, we should also build a caring and inclusive society. Support for the disadvantaged is high on the Government's agenda. The new-term Government will continue to provide financial support for people and families in need through various measures, including the implementation of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme, and the enhancement of the Low-income Working Family Allowance Scheme and Old Age Living Allowance.

The Government will sustain its efforts in poverty alleviation with the support of the Commission on Poverty (CoP). Apart from setting and updating the poverty line, the CoP also implements a number of assistance programmes through the Community Care Fund and the Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund. A poverty line analysis shows that the poverty rate in 2015 was 14.3%, representing a significant drop of 5.4 percentage points subsequent to policy intervention, with the size of the poor population staying below 1 million for the third consecutive year.

The new-term Government will set up a Commission on Children with cross-bureau and departmental representation and engage the children concern groups in addressing the issues that children face while growing up.

Regarding elderly services, our objective is to enable our senior citizens to live in dignity and to provide the necessary support to promote their sense of belonging, security and worthiness. Drawing reference from the recommendations of the Elderly Services Programme Plan, we will implement a series of new measures to enhance the provision and planning of elderly services. We will also continue with the Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly and the Pilot Scheme on Residential Care Service Voucher for the Elderly to provide additional choices for the elderly.

Meanwhile, we will further strengthen the support for persons or families with special needs, including ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities, persons with mental illness and ex-mentally ill persons, children with special needs as well as their parents and carers, and render better support for children and victims of domestic violence.

The family is the cornerstone of our society, and is key to maintaining social harmony and stability. The Family Council has a role to advise bureaux and departments on the impact of various government policies on families. The Government will continue to collaborate with various sectors in the community to create a family-friendly culture, including the launch of a new round of Family-Friendly Employers Award Scheme to promote and encourage more diversified and flexible family-friendly employment practices.

The Government is engaging the business and labour sectors with a view to coming up with a proposal in the coming months for abolishing the arrangement for "offsetting" severance payment/long service payment with employers' Mandatory Provident Fund contributions. The proposal would take account of the interests of both sides. We will also further strengthen the protection of employees' occupational safety and health.

In face of an ageing population, increasing prevalence of chronic and lifestyle-related diseases and rising healthcare cost, the Government will formulate long-term healthcare policies as early as possible and plan on future resources to safeguard the health and well-being of the public. In the coming five years, enhanced efforts and resources would be put in place to promote health education, primary care and community care so as to promote the public health and reduce the need for in-patient services. Apart from strengthening healthcare manpower, the Government will also advocate cross-sector (engaging the healthcare, social welfare and education sectors) and cross-profession collaboration to consolidate and enhance medical and healthcare services in a comprehensive manner. The practice of Chinese medicine in Hong Kong has a solid foundation. The Government will leverage on this advantage to actively promote the development of Chinese medicine on different fronts. Amidst the rapid development in medical technology, we will endeavour to promote medical research and innovation and facilitate their wider clinical application to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the local healthcare services.

Policy Initiatives

Poverty Alleviation, Elderly Care and Support for the Disadvantaged

Commission on Poverty

- Review the structure, work priorities and directions of the Commission on Poverty (CoP) to better support the current-term Government in preventing and alleviating poverty as well as providing assistance for different needy groups. (CSO) ([New Initiative](#))
- The Chief Executive will chair the annual CoP Summit to directly interact with stakeholders on the strategies and directions of poverty alleviation. The first CoP Summit under the current-term Government will be held in early 2018. (CSO) ([New Initiative](#))
- Update the poverty line annually to monitor Hong Kong's poverty situation on an on-going basis and provide scientific data for policy formulation and effectiveness evaluation with a view to facilitating review of the existing policies and exploration of new measures. (CSO)

Community Care Fund

- Continue to use the Community Care Fund (CCF) as a means to bridge the gaps in the system and draw up more new pilot schemes to better support the disadvantaged members of the community and low-income families. (HAB)

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- Invite the CCF to consider providing subsidy to needy primary and secondary students for purchasing tablet computers to facilitate the practice of e-learning. (EDB) (New Initiative)
 - Explore the continuous provision of subsidy through the CCF for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) households living in rented private housing and paying rents exceeding the maximum rent allowance under the CSSA Scheme. (LWB) (New Initiative)

Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund

- Continue to engage intermediaries to provide social entrepreneurs with social innovation eco-system support, engage partners in formulating and implementing collective impact initiatives, promote the “Creating Shared Value” concept in the business sector and sustain public awareness of and support for social innovation. In addition, the Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund will implement new measures, which include:
 - providing support to start-up social entrepreneurs and ventures through partnership with industry players offering co-working space; and
 - exploring new funding modes by making use of various financial vehicles, such as equity investment or loan guarantee, to meet different funding requirements of social entrepreneurs. (CSO)

Poverty Alleviation

- Continue to implement the enhancement measures for the Old Age Living Allowance, including the implementation of Higher Old Age Living Allowance in mid-2018, and closely monitor the implementation of various social security schemes. (LWB) ([New Initiative](#))

Helping Low-income Families

- Implement the enhancement measures for the Low-income Working Family Allowance Scheme (to be renamed as Working Family Allowance Scheme). (LWB) ([New Initiative](#))
- Extend the short-term food assistance service for three years up to 2020-21 to continue to support individuals and families who have difficulties in coping with their daily food expenditure. (LWB) ([New Initiative](#))

Enhancing Upward Mobility

- Inject \$300 million into the Child Development Fund to sustain its operation and promote the long-term development of children from a disadvantaged background, with a view to alleviating inter-generational poverty. (LWB) ([New Initiative](#))

Supporting the Disadvantaged

Supporting Families in Need

- Increase the number of residential child care places in phases to enhance support and protection for children and families in need. (LWB)

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- Launch an environment improvement programme for small group homes to meet the needs of children receiving residential care service. (LWB) (New Initiative)
 - Strengthen the manpower of small group homes, residential child care centres, children's homes and boys'/girls' homes/hostels to enhance care and support for children receiving residential care service. (LWB) (New Initiative)
 - Provide about 300 additional aided long full-day child care places in phases for children aged below three. (LWB) (New Initiative)
 - Launch a three-year CCF pilot scheme to relax the income limit for the low-income families under the Fee Waiving Subsidy Scheme for After School Care Programme and provide 2 000 additional fee-waiving and fee-reduction places, so as to strengthen the support for low-income families. (LWB) (New Initiative)
 - Inject \$400 million into the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged to continue to promote cross-sector collaboration in helping the disadvantaged. The injection will be evenly allocated to the regular portion of the fund and the dedicated portion for after-school learning and support programmes. (LWB) (New Initiative)
 - Increase the level of various foster care allowances, provide 240 additional foster care places in phases, and recruit more foster parents. (LWB)

- Increase the number of places and manpower of refuge centres for women and the Family Crisis Support Centre, and combat domestic violence through enhancing the provision of preventive, supportive and specialised services for victims and families in need, as well as making publicity and public education efforts. Counselling and psycho-educational services are also provided for batterers to change their abusive attitude and behaviour. (LWB)
- Monitor the implementation of the Domestic and Cohabitation Relationships Violence Ordinance. (LWB)
- Provide support services for victims of sexual violence. (LWB)
- Strengthen co-parenting support for divorced/separated parents and their children. (LWB) (New Initiative)
- Continue to implement a two-year Pilot Project on Children Contact Service to assist divorced/separated parents in rebuilding and maintaining satisfactory communication with their children, and enable the children to have safe and conflict-free contact with their parents. (LWB)
- Inject \$50 million into the Trust Fund on Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome to continue to provide support for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome patients and their families. (LWB) (New Initiative)
- Set up a medical social service unit at the newly commissioned Hong Kong Children's Hospital and strengthen the professional support provided by medical social workers in the Child Assessment Centres of the Department of Health (DH) and the general and psychiatric hospitals of the Hospital Authority (HA). (LWB) (New Initiative)

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- To promote a caring and volunteering culture, we will continue to strengthen our volunteer network and matching platform. (HAB)

Enhancing Services for Persons with Disabilities and Persons with Mental Illness

- Prepare for the formulation of a new Hong Kong Rehabilitation Programme Plan for persons with disabilities. (LWB) ([New Initiative](#))
- Promote the spirit and core values enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in collaboration with the Rehabilitation Advisory Committee, the rehabilitation sector and the public at large. (LWB)
- Improve rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities by increasing the number of places of pre-school rehabilitation service, day service and residential service, and places provided under the Bought Place Scheme for Private Residential Care Homes for Persons with Disabilities. (LWB) ([New Initiative](#))
- Enhance support for children with special needs and their parents by:
 - continuing to implement the Pilot Scheme on On-site Pre-school Rehabilitation Services through non-governmental organisations (NGOs) operating subvented pre-school rehabilitation services, to provide on-site rehabilitation services for children with special needs who are studying in kindergartens or kindergarten-cum-child care centres, converting the pilot scheme into a regular government subsidy programme upon completion of a comprehensive review, and providing 7 000 service places in phases under the programme;

- providing training subsidy for eligible pre-school children to obtain self-financing pre-school rehabilitation services run by NGOs while they are waiting for subvented services so as to facilitate their learning and development, and waiving the means test for children on the waiting list for special child care centre service; and
 - providing support for parents and relatives/carers of persons with disabilities and ex-mentally ill persons, including children or young persons with special needs, through subvented parents/relatives resource centres. (LWB)
- Provide home care service for persons with severe disabilities on a territory-wide basis. (LWB)
 - Set up a “special needs trust” to provide affordable trust services for parents of children with special needs. (LWB) (New Initiative)
 - Regularise the Pilot Project on Strengthening Support for Persons with Autism and their Parents/Carers. (LWB) (New Initiative)
 - Set up a new fund to foster arts development for persons with disabilities. (LWB) (New Initiative)
 - Provide cash subsidy for needy persons with severe physical disabilities who live in the community and require constant care to cover their expenses for renting respiratory support medical equipment and purchasing medical consumables, and provide them with one-stop support services (including casework counselling, occupational therapy/physiotherapy, nursing care service and financial support service) co-ordinated and arranged by case managers in accordance with their needs to enable them to continue living in the community and integrate into society. (LWB)

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- Provide additional day care service places, strengthen outreaching services and continue the implementation of case management service in district support centres for persons with disabilities to enhance support for ageing persons with disabilities in the community. (LWB)
 - Enhance support for the operation and development of self-help organisations through providing funding for the Financial Support Scheme for Self-help Organisations for Persons with Disabilities/Chronic Illnesses. (LWB) (New Initiative)
 - Enhance professional support for children of ex-mentally ill persons and hearing impaired persons through integrated community centres for mental wellness and multi-service centres for hearing impaired persons. (LWB) (New Initiative)
 - Continue to provide sign language interpretation services for persons with hearing impairment through multi-service centres for hearing impaired persons and relevant social and recreational centres for the disabled. (LWB)
 - Enhance support and training for persons with visual impairment through rehabilitation and training centres for visually impaired persons. (LWB) (New Initiative)
 - Provide clinical psychological service in integrated community centres for mental wellness to strengthen support for ex-mentally ill persons, and deploy mobile publicity vans to step up community education for early prevention of mental illness. (LWB) (New Initiative)

- Provide one-stop district-based community support services through integrated community centres for mental wellness for ex-mentally ill persons, persons with suspected mental health problems, their families/carers and local residents. (LWB)
- Continue to implement the Pilot Project on Peer Support Service in Community Psychiatric Service Units for trained ex-mentally ill persons to serve as peer supporters for other persons in rehabilitation and regularise the pilot project upon its completion. The project also aims to improve the employment opportunities of ex-mentally ill persons. (LWB)
- Continue to provide short-term day and residential care services for persons with disabilities to relieve the stress of their families/carers. (LWB)
- Enhance care and support services for ageing service users through: (i) providing additional places of Extended Care Programme and Work Extension Programme; (ii) providing speech therapy services in hostels for moderately mentally handicapped persons, hostels for severely mentally handicapped persons, hostels for severely physically handicapped persons with mental handicap and care and attention homes for severely disabled persons; and (iii) enhancing health care services in supported hostels. (LWB) (New Initiative)
- Implement the Bought Place Scheme for Private Residential Care Homes for Persons with Disabilities to:
 - upgrade the service standards of private residential care homes for persons with disabilities (RCHDs);
 - help the market develop more service options for persons with disabilities; and

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- increase the supply of subsidised residential care places. (LWB)
 - Enhance care and support services for ageing service users in rehabilitation service units. (LWB)
 - Continue to enhance the primary medical service for ageing service users at residential care homes for persons with disabilities by providing subvention under the Visiting Medical Practitioner Scheme. (LWB)
 - Ensure that persons with disabilities have equal access to government job opportunities by implementing measures to provide assistance and facilitation for them during the application process, and enhance internship programmes within the Government for students with disabilities to strengthen their competitiveness in job seeking. (CSB) (New Initiative)
 - Enhance the employment opportunities of job seekers with disabilities by increasing the allowance for employers under the Work Orientation and Placement Scheme to encourage them to hire and train job seekers with disabilities. (LWB) (New Initiative)
 - Enhance vocational rehabilitation support for persons with disabilities through: (i) providing job attachment allowance for trainees of supported employment service and wage subsidy for employers offering job trials to these trainees; and (ii) strengthening post-placement follow-up service in vocational rehabilitation service units. (LWB) (New Initiative)

- Promote the employment of persons with disabilities by:
 - providing job attachment allowance and wage subsidy under the On the Job Training Programme for People with Disabilities and the Sunnyway — On the Job Training Programme for Young People with Disabilities to create job attachment opportunities for persons with disabilities;
 - providing subsidy for employers for procurement of assistive devices and/or workplace modifications;
 - providing financial incentive for mentors rendering workplace assistance and guidance to employees with disabilities;
 - engaging a non-governmental welfare organisation under a pilot scheme to strengthen employment support of the Labour Department (LD) for job seekers with disabilities in need of counselling service; and
 - promoting the Talent-Wise Employment Charter and Inclusive Organisations Recognition Scheme to mobilise employers in the public and private sectors to employ more persons with disabilities. (LWB)
- Provide support for businesses funded under the Enhancing Employment of People with Disabilities through Small Enterprise Project to create more employment opportunities for persons with disabilities. (LWB)
- Enhance transport services for persons with disabilities through improvement to rebus service, and examine ways to further improve the accessibility of transport services for persons with disabilities. (LWB/THB)

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- Provide bus service for the day activity centres cum hostels for severely mentally handicapped persons and community rehabilitation day centres. (LWB)
 - Continue to implement the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities to enable elderly people aged 65 or above and eligible persons with disabilities to travel on the MTR lines, franchised bus routes, ferry routes and green minibus routes covered by the scheme at a concessionary fare of \$2 per trip, with a view to building a caring and inclusive society by encouraging these people to participate more in community activities. (LWB)

Ageing in Place

- Strengthen the provision and planning of elderly services by drawing reference from the Elderly Services Programme Plan. Measures include:
 - strengthening the community care and support services by providing an additional 1 000 vouchers (bringing the total to 6 000) under the Second Phase of the Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly to support ageing in place for elderly persons with moderate or severe impairment; (LWB)
 - organising territory-wide public education activities to enhance public understanding of dementia, and allocating more resources to service units providing community care and support services for the elderly to enhance the provision of dementia care service and related staff training; (LWB)

- allocating more resources to elderly centres and home care services teams to enhance outreaching services for supporting those needy carers living in the community and looking after frail elderly persons; (LWB)
 - planning to reinstate the population-based planning ratios for elderly services in the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines; (LWB)
 - promoting the research of new technologies that improve the quality of living of the elderly and encouraging its application in residence, community and elderly homes. We will also earmark \$1 billion for setting up a fund to subsidise elderly service units to try and procure technology products; on the other hand, we will commission the Hong Kong Council of Social Service to promote the use of technology among social welfare organisations and carers. The initiatives will also cover rehabilitation service units; (LWB/ITB)
 - providing additional resources for subsidised elderly service units to increase the salaries of personal care workers and home helpers. The initiative will also cover similar posts in service units of subsidised rehabilitation services as well as family and child welfare services; (LWB) and
 - considering the possibility of allowing subsidised units of elderly and rehabilitation services greater flexibility in the importation of care workers. (LWB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Plan to implement a pilot scheme under the Lotteries Fund to enhance training for foreign domestic helpers in taking care of elderly persons. (LWB)

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- Plan to implement a pilot scheme under the Lotteries Fund to provide specialised residential care service for elderly persons with special needs at designated residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs). (LWB)
 - Continue to implement the Pilot Scheme on Residential Care Service Voucher for the Elderly by adopting “money-following-the-user” approach with a view to offering elderly persons in need of residential care service with an additional choice and providing an incentive for RCHEs to improve their services. A total of 1 000 vouchers will be issued in 2018-19. (LWB)
 - Continue to build new contract RCHEs and day care centres for the elderly (DEs) to increase the number of places. Five new contract RCHEs/contract RCHEs with day care units for the elderly and three new or expanded DEs will commence service between 2017-18 and 2018-19, providing a total of 516 residential care places and 163 day care places for the elderly. (LWB)
 - Continue with the conversion of existing EA2 places of the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme to about 1 200 EA1 places which are of a higher quality. The conversion is expected to be completed in 2018-19. (LWB)
 - Continue to implement the Navigation Scheme for Young Persons in Care Services to encourage more young people to join the care service profession in the welfare sector. (LWB)
 - Consider suitable sites and operating mode for setting up integrated elderly services centres on a pilot basis to provide one-stop, multi-disciplinary healthcare and social services for the elderly at the community level. (FHB/LWB)

Service Quality of Residential Care Homes

- Implement a series of measures to continuously strengthen the monitoring of RCHEs and RCHDs and enhance their service quality. Measures include:
 - continuing to review the Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) Ordinance, the Residential Care Homes (Persons with Disabilities) Ordinance and related Codes of Practice;
 - launching a five-year scheme to provide full subsidies for home managers, health workers and care workers of all RCHEs and RCHDs in the territory to enrol in Qualifications Framework-based training courses;
 - launching a five-year scheme to provide full subsidies for all private RCHEs to join accreditation schemes;
 - setting up district-based professional teams under a four-year pilot scheme to provide outreach services for residents in private RCHEs and RCHDs, so as to support their social and rehabilitation needs;
 - conducting a consultancy study to review the existing licensing and regulatory regimes for RCHEs and RCHDs, including exploring the feasibility of formulating performance indicators for quality assurance; and
 - providing visiting medical practitioner services for residents of all RCHEs and RCHDs in the territory so as to take proactive measures against seasonal influenza and other episodic illnesses and improve their general health and reduce their reliance on the public healthcare system. (LWB) ([New Initiative](#))

Creating an Age-friendly Community

- Establish a web-based learning and sharing portal to help the elderly and persons with disabilities acquire life and digital skills in a fun and accessible manner, so that they can benefit from the advancement in digital technology in their daily lives. (ITB) ([New Initiative](#))
- Continue to install barrier-free facilities such as lifts at the existing public rental housing estates and continue to implement the “Universal Accessibility” Programme. This will allow people in need, including the elderly, to move around in the community with greater ease. (THB)
- Continue to upgrade the physical setting, facilities and equipment of some 230 elderly centres under the Improvement Programme of Elderly Centres. (LWB)
- Continue to take forward initiatives to build an age-friendly environment, including examining the application of information technologies to extend the pedestrian green time when the elderly and people with mobility difficulties cross signalised road junctions. (THB)
- Continue to implement the Opportunities for the Elderly Project and the Elder Academy Scheme to encourage elderly persons to actively take part in community affairs and pursue lifelong learning. (LWB)
- Continue to promote the building of age-friendly communities at the district level, including the participation of individual districts in the World Health Organization’s “age-friendly community” accreditation scheme. (LWB)

- Provide choices of service for the elderly and promote the development of the silver market through the Senior Citizen Residences Scheme and the Reverse Mortgage Programme, which are operated by the Hong Kong Housing Society and the Hong Kong Mortgage Corporation Limited respectively. (THB/FSTB)
- Continue to update the facilities in public libraries and organise activities to promote reading among senior citizens. (HAB)
- Continue to provide more fitness facilities for the elderly in government recreation and sports venues to encourage the elderly to participate regularly in health-building activities. (HAB)

Social Security

- Facilitate elderly persons' retirement on the Mainland by:
 - continuing to implement the Guangdong Scheme, including the one-year special arrangement (i.e. once again exempting, on a one-off basis, from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018, eligible elderly persons already residing in Guangdong from the requirement of having resided in Hong Kong continuously for at least one year immediately before the date of application); and
 - introducing the Fujian Scheme in the second quarter of 2018 to provide monthly Old Age Allowance for eligible elderly persons who choose to reside in Fujian. (LWB)

Social Welfare Planning and Administration

- Explore the feasibility of purchase of premises for the operation and provision of elderly and rehabilitation services so as to address the shortage of premises. (LWB) (New Initiative)
- Explore measures that would encourage private developers to provide various welfare facilities, including day child care centres, residential child care centres, DEs and RCHEs in their development projects. (LWB/DEVB) (New Initiative)
- Continue to implement the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses, under which targeted assistance is provided for participating social welfare organisations during the planning or development process. The scheme aims at providing diversified subvented and self-financing facilities, in particular additional places of elderly and rehabilitation services. (LWB)
- Continue to engage prospective operators in discussing and introducing revised approaches to non-Comprehensive Social Security Assistance schemes on a pilot basis. (CSO)

Lump Sum Grant

- Discuss with the social welfare sector how to optimise the Lump Sum Grant Subvention System. (LWB) (New Initiative)

Family Council

- Work with the Family Council to ensure that family perspectives are duly considered in the policy-making process, and develop a more elaborated checklist as the basis for assessing the impact of public policies on families. (HAB)

- Work with the Family Council to:
 - advocate a pro-family environment and further promote family core values of “Love and Care”, “Respect and Responsibility” and “Communication and Harmony” as well as the positive messages and values on family formation to encourage the community to attach importance to the family; and
 - foster a culture of loving families. (HAB)
- Introduce family education packages through the Family Council to:
 - address the needs of different types of families; and
 - further promote family education at the district level in collaboration with relevant bureaux and departments. (HAB)
- Building on the success of the previous three rounds of “Family-Friendly Employers Award Scheme”, the Home Affairs Bureau and the Family Council will jointly organise the fourth Award Scheme in 2017-18 to continue their efforts in promoting family-friendly employment practices in the community. (HAB)

Commission on Children

- Set up a Preparatory Committee, which is chaired by the Chief Executive with the participation of representatives from different sectors, to prepare for the establishment of a Commission on Children in mid 2018 to amalgamate the efforts made by relevant bureaux and departments and children concern groups to focus on addressing children's issues as they grow. (LWB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

Providing Support to Ethnic Minorities

- Apart from educational measures to help non-Chinese speaking students learn Chinese (Note), we will also implement the following measures to enhance support for ethnic minorities in employment:
 - Seek to submit legislative amendment proposals to the Legislative Council in the 2017-18 legislative session for implementing nine prioritised recommendations (of which seven involve the Race Discrimination Ordinance) under the Discrimination Law Review as proposed by the Equal Opportunities Commission; (CMAB)
 - Continue to engage staff proficient in ethnic minority languages to provide services at selected job centres of the LD on a pilot basis; (LWB)
 - Continue to implement the Employment Services Ambassador Programme for Ethnic Minorities to engage trainees of the Youth Employment and Training Programme who can communicate in ethnic minority languages as Employment Services Ambassadors at job centres, industry-based recruitment centres and job fairs of the LD to provide employment services for ethnic minority job seekers; (LWB)
 - Systematically review the requirement on written Chinese proficiency for various grades of the civil service, with a view to increasing government job opportunities for ethnic minorities; (CSB)

- Continue to implement various measures for the ethnic minorities to facilitate their early integration into the community, including provision of language classes, adaptation courses and youth dedicated programmes for the ethnic minorities through six support service centres and two sub-centres; implementation of the Ambassador Scheme for ethnic minority youths, etc.; and continued employment of non-civil service contract staff who are familiar with the cultures and languages of the ethnic minorities to assist in the implementation of the relevant measures; (HAB) and
- Implement a cross-disciplined forces training programme targeting ethnic minority youths to provide them with discipline, physical and team building training, to support and assist them to integrate into the community, and to cultivate positive values. (SB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

(Note): The relevant initiatives are set out in Chapter 4.

Enhancing Healthcare Services

- Accord priority to boosting primary healthcare services and invest resources accordingly to enhance public health. We will set up a steering committee on primary health care development to prepare a development blueprint. (FHB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

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- Set up a district health centre in Kwai Tsing as a pilot to provide a range of professional services (e.g. nursing service, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and counselling service on the use of medication). We seek to strengthen collaboration between the health and social sectors and public-private partnership in a district setting, with a view to enhancing public awareness in disease prevention and self-health management, offering greater support for patients of chronic disease, and relieving the pressure on specialist and hospital services. In the light of experience gained, we will develop by phases district health centres for other districts. (FHB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
 - Plan and implement initiatives to promote the development of primary care, formulate reference frameworks for specific population groups and chronic diseases, promote the Primary Care Directory, and co-ordinate and plan the works projects for the establishment of community health centres in various districts. (FHB)
 - Consider developing a Patient Portal in the development of the second stage of the Electronic Health Record Sharing System to enable the general public to better manage their health, further facilitate the implementation of public-private partnership and medical-social collaboration, and promote health education more effectively. (FHB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
 - Enhance the collaboration among healthcare professionals to deliver more comprehensive healthcare services by:
 - expanding the coverage of clinical pharmacy services (including oncology and paediatric services) to improve the pharmacy services for patients and help reduce the workload of doctors; and

- enhancing the services of nurse clinics in urology and rheumatology and expand perioperative nurse clinics so as to facilitate patients' early access to treatment and continuity of care. (FHB) (New Initiative)
- The Colorectal Cancer Screening Pilot Programme launched in September 2016 enables timely detection of persons more likely to develop colorectal cancer so as to initiate early treatment to prevent progression into cancer and improve the chance of cure, thus reducing the impact of the disease on the healthcare system. (FHB)
- Increase the manpower of the Social Hygiene Service of the DH so as to enhance clinical services for patients with severe dermatological conditions and psoriasis patients. (FHB) (New Initiative)
- Launch an on-going mental health educational and destigmatisation campaign when the territory-wide mental health promotional campaign named Joyful@HK is completed in March 2018. The new on-going campaign aims to reduce stigma towards persons with mental health needs, so as to build a mental-health friendly society and facilitate their re-integration into the community. The campaign seeks to promote higher acceptance of people with mental health needs and, in the long run, enhance their employment opportunities and generate economic, social and health benefits. (FHB) (New Initiative)
- Consider ways to provide appropriate support services for students with mental health needs with reference to the evaluation results of the Student Mental Health Support Scheme. (FHB) (New Initiative)

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- Expand the enhanced model of providing multi-disciplinary services in common mental disorder clinics to the New Territories West Cluster within 2018-19. The aim is to offer more personalised intervention service to target patients. (FHB) (New Initiative)
 - Regularise the Dementia Community Support Scheme and expand it to all 41 district elderly community centres to provide cross-sector and multi-disciplinary support services for elderly with mild or moderate dementia and their carers through a medical-social collaboration model at the district level. (FHB) (New Initiative)
 - Continue to allocate resources to provide dental services for persons with intellectual disabilities in need of such services. (FHB)
 - Increase the number of public hospital beds and operating theatre sessions, and enhance the endoscopic and diagnostic radiological services, so as to enhance the service capacity for addressing the ever rising healthcare needs. (FHB)
 - Increase the quota for general out-patient and the attendances in specialist out-patient clinics, enhance the Accident & Emergency services and shorten the waiting time for out-patient and emergency services. (FHB)
 - Widen the scope of the HA Drug Formulary to improve the drug treatment for patients in public hospitals. (FHB)
 - Strengthen the services for chronic diseases through, for example, enhancing the capacity of cancer and cardiac services and increasing the service quota of haemodialysis for renal service. (FHB)

- Enhance public healthcare services through public-private partnership to increase service volume and offer additional choices to patients. We are implementing the following projects:
 - procuring additional places for haemodialysis services from the private sector to provide treatment for eligible patients with end-stage renal disease;
 - providing outsourced radiological investigation services for selected groups of cancer patients;
 - subsidising patients to receive cataract operation in the private sector; and
 - enhancing the choices of infirmary care services for applicants on the Central Infirmary Waiting List managed by the HA through collaboration between the HA and NGOs. An Infirmary Service Public-Private Partnership Programme has been implemented on a pilot basis with an NGO providing infirmary services at the Wong Chuk Hang Hospital. (FHB)
- Study how to make better use of resources to improve pharmacy services for elderly persons living in elderly homes. (FHB) ([New Initiative](#))
- Continue to extend the coverage of the General Out-patient Clinic Public-Private Partnership Programme to more areas, with a view to covering all 18 districts of the territory by 2018. (FHB)

Healthcare Service Development and Infrastructure

- Expedite delivery of the 10-year Hospital Development Plan, for which a provision of \$200 billion has been set aside, and liaise with the Chinese University of Hong Kong Medical Centre on its future development needs. (FHB)

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- Continue to utilise the \$13 billion one-off grant on minor works allocated to the HA in 2014 to improve facilities in public hospitals and clinics. (FHB)
 - Set up a Big Data Analytics Platform in the HA to identify useful information that helps develop healthcare policies, enhance clinical and healthcare services, improve healthcare quality and safety, and promote healthcare services innovation. (FHB) (New Initiative)
 - Continue to implement the recommendations of the Steering Committee on Review of Hospital Authority through measures like refining the delineation of cluster boundary, shortening waiting time and adopting a refined population-based resource allocation model to enable the HA to better meet the challenges of an ageing population, increasing prevalence of chronic diseases and rising healthcare cost due to advance in medical technology. (FHB)
 - The DH will re-engineer the resources for information technology development, staffing structure and operation workflow to comprehensively increase the application of information and communications technology, and strengthen the development of public health data. The DH will also put in place a comprehensive Clinical Information Management System and other related systems so as to enhance its capability in meeting various public health challenges and deliver higher quality services to the public. (FHB) (New Initiative)

- Set up a steering committee to study the strategies for developing genetic and genomic services in Hong Kong. The steering committee will look into key areas which include enhancing clinical, laboratory and public health genetic services, strengthening academic research and professional training, as well as examining ethics and regulatory issues. (FHB) (New Initiative)
- Consider formulating a more robust policy and legislative framework to facilitate end-of-life care planning and the provision of palliative care outside hospital settings. (FHB)
- Continue our efforts to facilitate further development of private hospitals with a view to ensuring the healthy development of a dual-track healthcare system in Hong Kong. (FHB)

Ensuring Long-term Sustainability of Healthcare System

- Facilitate the enactment of the Private Healthcare Facilities Bill, with a view to ensuring patient safety and protecting consumer rights. (FHB)
- Implement the Voluntary Health Insurance Scheme to improve the quality and transparency of individual hospital insurance products, and provide tax deduction for purchase of regulated health insurance products to encourage the public to use private healthcare services. (FHB)

Healthcare Manpower Planning and Professional Development

- Take forward the recommendations of the Strategic Review of Healthcare Manpower Planning and Professional Development to ensure sufficient manpower in the healthcare system to meet service demand, foster professional development and improve the regulatory framework of healthcare professions. Measures include:
 - considering increasing the number of publicly-funded undergraduate places for training doctors, dentists, nurses and relevant allied health professionals;
 - employing all locally trained medical graduates and providing them with necessary specialist training through the HA;
 - putting in place a structured mechanism to ensure that there is sufficient training relief, protected time and minimum training hours available for the healthcare professionals, in particular frontline healthcare professionals;
 - planning for medical specialist training by taking into account operational service needs, specialty development, long-term service development and manpower situation; and
 - without affecting the employment and career prospects of locally trained doctors, proactively recruiting non-locally trained doctors under limited registration, rehiring retired doctors and engaging private doctors through the HA to serve in public hospitals in order to meet imminent service needs. (FHB) (New Initiative)

- Forge ahead with the Pilot Scheme of the Accredited Registers for Healthcare Professions by completing the accreditation process for speech therapists, clinical psychologists, educational psychologists, audiologists and dietitians to pave the way for setting up a statutory registration regime for these professions. (FHB) (New Initiative)

The Medical Council of Hong Kong

- Facilitate the Legislative Council's scrutiny of the Medical Registration (Amendment) Bill 2017, submitted by the Government in June 2017, with a view to enhancing the operation of the Medical Council of Hong Kong (MCHK) as soon as possible by improving its complaint investigation and disciplinary inquiry mechanism, increasing lay participation in the MCHK, and extending the valid period of limited registration for non-locally trained doctors to be approved by the MCHK from not exceeding one year to not exceeding three years. (FHB) (New Initiative)
- Increase the manpower and resources of the MCHK Secretariat to increase its efficiency in handling complaints and provide more user-friendly services throughout the complaint handling process. (FHB) (New Initiative)

Disease Prevention and Control

- Set up a steering committee to formulate strategies to effectively prevent and control viral hepatitis. The steering committee will review local and international trends and developments in the prevention and control of viral hepatitis; advise the Government on policies and cost-effective targeted strategies for prevention and control of viral hepatitis; and conduct and co-ordinate the surveillance and evaluation of viral hepatitis control and recommend appropriate response. (FHB) (New Initiative)

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- Implement the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance and improve our infectious disease surveillance, control and notification system. (FHB)
 - Implement a multi-pronged strategy to minimise the risk of influenza pandemic and enhance Hong Kong's preparedness for the pandemic. (FHB)
 - Continue to implement and improve the vaccination programme/ vaccination subsidy scheme to provide free/subsidised seasonal influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations for eligible persons, with a view to enhancing primary care and disease prevention. Measures include providing free or subsidised 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine for the elderly group under the Government Vaccination Programme and Vaccination Subsidy Scheme respectively from 2017-18 onwards, with a view to strengthening elderly's immunity against pneumococcal infection. (FHB)
 - Continue to adopt a comprehensive preventive and surveillance programme to reduce the risk of avian influenza outbreaks and human infections in Hong Kong. We will keep the situation under review and update the relevant policies in a timely manner. (FHB)

- The High-level Steering Committee on Antimicrobial Resistance, which was set up in June 2016, comprises representatives from relevant government departments, public and private hospitals, healthcare organisations, academia and relevant professional bodies. The Government has accepted the recommendations put forward by the High-level Steering Committee under the “One health” framework and launched in July 2017 the Hong Kong Strategy and Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (2017-2022), which outlines key areas, objectives and actions to contain the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance in Hong Kong. (FHB)
- Progressively enhance the HA's management and treatment of life-threatening diseases, including its stroke care and cardiac services, with a view to strengthening service quality and capacity. The 24-hour intravenous thrombolytic therapy for stroke patients will be made available in individual hospital clusters in phases. The HA will enhance its 24-hour intravenous thrombolytic therapy services for stroke patients as well as its cardiac catheterisation laboratory and cardiac care unit services. HA will also gradually strengthen its emergency percutaneous coronary intervention service. (FHB)
- As the Pilot Study on “Newborn Screening for Inborn Errors of Metabolism” implemented in Queen Elizabeth Hospital and Queen Mary Hospital since October 2015 has proven effective, the DH and the HA have regularised the screening service in the two public hospitals from 1 April 2017 and will extend the screening service to all public hospitals with maternity wards in phases from the second half of 2017-18. In this regard, Prince of Wales Hospital will provide the Inborn Errors of Metabolism screening service in late 2017. (FHB)

Elderly Healthcare Services

- Continue to promote the Elderly Health Care Voucher Scheme, which subsidises elderly persons aged 65 or above to use private primary care services. At the same time, the Government is reviewing the effectiveness of the scheme with a view to ensuring that the scheme will enhance the provision of primary care services for the elderly, including preventive care. (FHB)
- Continue to enhance the manpower of the Elderly Health Service of the DH, including strengthening the provision of health promotion activities, providing priority to the needy elders to use the services of the Elderly Health Centres, and allocating more first-time health assessment quotas to new members. (FHB)
- Strengthen support for elderly patients with fragility fractures by increasing the HA's operating theatre sessions in designated hospitals, and enhance physiotherapy service for elderly patients. (FHB)
- Enhance the services provided by the HA's Community Geriatric Assessment Teams for terminally ill patients living in RCHEs. (FHB)
- Continue to strengthen medical-social collaboration through the joint efforts of the HA and the Social Welfare Department with a view to providing a full range of transitional care services and the required assistance for those elderly patients discharged from public hospitals, enabling them to age at home after the transitional period. (FHB)
- Continue to implement the Outreach Dental Care Programme for the Elderly to provide dental care and treatment for elderly people in residential care homes and similar facilities. (FHB)

Health Promotion and Regulation

- Study the extension of statutory no-smoking areas at public transport facilities. (FHB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Launch a smoking cessation public-private partnership pilot programme in the fourth quarter of 2017. (FHB)
- Formulate legislative proposal for the regulation of electronic cigarettes. (FHB)
- Formulate legislative proposals for the regulation of health products for advanced therapies. (FHB)
- Consider carefully the views of different stakeholders on the statutory regulation of medical devices, with a view to introducing as soon as possible the legislative proposal for “pre-market control” and “post-market control” of medical devices. (FHB)
- Strengthen collaboration with relevant organisations to promote organ donation and encourage the public to register their wish at the Centralised Organ Donation Register. The Government will also legislate for the paired organ donation scheme to be launched by the HA. (FHB)

Chinese Medicine

- The Food and Health Bureau will set up a dedicated unit to oversee the development of Chinese medicine in Hong Kong, including deciding the positioning of Chinese medicine in the public healthcare system, which will serve as the basis for formulating the mode of operation of the first Chinese medicine hospital, enhancing the current tripartite collaboration model adopted by the Chinese Medicine Centres for Training and Research in the 18 districts and fostering the professional development of Chinese medicine practitioners. (FHB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Study and promote the development of Chinese medicine in Hong Kong, and open up markets on the Mainland and nearby countries for Chinese medicine by fully leveraging Hong Kong's advantages on various fronts. (FHB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- To cater for the development of Chinese medicine, we will include information of Chinese medicine in the sharable scope of the Electronic Health Record Sharing System, continue to standardise clinical and medical terminologies of Chinese medicine, and develop the Chinese Medicine Information System On-ramp so as to facilitate the access and sharing of patients' information by the Chinese medicine practitioners who choose to use the system in the future. (FHB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Review the remuneration and promotion arrangements for staff (including Chinese medicine practitioners) in the Chinese Medicine Centres for Training and Research in the 18 districts with a view to enhancing their career prospects. (FHB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

- Continue to review the development of the Chinese medicine sector through the Chinese Medicine Development Committee to formulate a strategy to raise the professional standard and status of Chinese medicine practitioners, support research and development of Chinese medicine, promote treatment with integrated Chinese-Western medicine, expand the role of Chinese medicine in the public healthcare system, and examine the feasible mode of operation of the Chinese medicine hospital. (FHB)
- For the development of the Chinese medicine hospital, we will draw reference from the analysis report prepared by the international consultant based on the consultation with local stakeholders and overseas experts and further plan for the governance structure, business model, operation model, financial model and contract management model of the Chinese medicine hospital. We expect that the positioning and the framework of development in major areas of the Chinese medicine hospital will be announced in the first half of 2018. (FHB) (New Initiative)
- To provide the healthcare professionals required by the Chinese medicine hospital for the provision of integrated Chinese-Western medicine with Chinese medicine playing a predominant role, we will organise various training courses, including diploma courses on Chinese medicine specialty for registered Chinese medicine practitioners, basic Western pharmacy training for Chinese medicine pharmacists, and relevant Chinese medicine training courses for medical practitioners, nurses and healthcare professionals. (FHB) (New Initiative)

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- Implement the Integrated Chinese-Western Medicine Pilot Project to gather experience in the operation of integrated Chinese-Western medicine and Chinese medicine in-patient services, which will serve as the basis for formulating the mode of operation of the Chinese medicine hospital. Launched in September 2014, the pilot project provides treatment with integrated Chinese-Western medicine for three diseases, namely stroke, low back pain and cancer, in seven hospitals of the HA. (FHB)
 - The temporary Government Chinese Medicines Testing Institute set up at the Hong Kong Science Park has commenced operation in phases since March 2017. On this basis, we will speed up the establishment of the permanent Government Chinese Medicines Testing Institute. Through development of a set of internationally-recognised reference standards for Chinese medicines and related products and also transfer of technology, it will help empower the industry to strengthen quality control of their products and develop Hong Kong into an international hub for scientific research on Chinese medicines testing and quality control. (FHB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
 - Continue with the research work after completing the compilation of Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica Standards for 275 Chinese materia medica commonly used in Hong Kong. Our target is to set reference standards for around 28 Chinese materia medica each year. A pilot study has also been launched on the standard setting for Chinese medicines decoction pieces under the Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica Standards Project. (FHB)

Retirement Protection and Labour Issues

Retirement Protection

- Engage the business and labour sectors with a view to coming up with a proposal that takes account of the interests of both sides for abolishing the “offsetting” arrangement of severance payment/long service payment with employers’ mandatory provident fund contributions. (LWB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- The Government and the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority have commenced work to put in place the eMPF, a centralised electronic platform which will enhance the administrative efficiency of the Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) schemes, thereby providing more room for fee reduction. A working group comprising all the 14 trustees who are operating MPF schemes has been formed to steer the development of the eMPF. (FSTB)
- The Hong Kong Mortgage Corporation Limited is planning to introduce a life annuity scheme in mid 2018 to provide an additional financial planning option for the elderly to help them turn cash lump sums into lifelong streams of fixed monthly income, so that they can better enjoy the rest of their lives. (FSTB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

Labour

- Support the Minimum Wage Commission in reviewing the Statutory Minimum Wage rate. (LWB)
- Follow up on the outcome of the review of the implementation of statutory paternity leave in consultation with the Labour Advisory Board and the Legislative Council Panel on Manpower. (LWB)

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- Commence a study on improving statutory maternity leave. (LWB) (New Initiative)
 - Continue to promote the employment of elderly persons by enhancing the employment support services for elderly job seekers. We will continue to organise various publicity activities to raise public awareness of the part played by elderly persons in the potential labour force and encourage employers to adopt friendly employment practices for the elderly. (LWB)
 - Continue to provide on-the-job training allowance of up to \$3,000 per month for employers for a period of three to six months under the Employment Programme for the Middle-aged, so as to give employers a financial incentive to employ elderly persons in full-time or part-time jobs and provide them with on-the-job training. (LWB)
 - Strengthen the protection of foreign domestic helpers (FDH) and the regulation of employment agencies with a view to maintaining Hong Kong as an attractive place for FDHs to work and meeting the demands of local families. (LWB) (New Initiative)
 - Allow the importation of labour on an appropriate, limited and targeted basis to relieve the manpower shortage of individual sectors on the premise of according employment priority to local workers. (LWB)

Occupational Safety and Health

- Formulate comprehensive measures to safeguard the safety and health of people at work in the construction industry through strengthening of inspection and enforcement, publicity and promotion, as well as education and training. (LWB) (New Initiative)

- Increase the penalties in the existing occupational safety and health legislation with a view to strengthening the deterrent effect, thus further safeguarding the occupational safety of workers. (LWB) (New Initiative)
- Issue safety guidelines on hand-dug tunnelling works in 2017 to specify that hand-dug tunnelling method can only be used in situations where all other safer alternatives are considered impracticable. The guidelines will also set out concrete safety precautionary measures for such works. (LWB) (New Initiative)
- Step up promotion of the existing complaint channels to encourage construction workers to lodge complaints about unsafe working conditions, so that the LD can conduct more targeted inspections. (LWB) (New Initiative)
- Continue to collaborate with trade associations, workers' unions, professional bodies, related organisations and other government departments to explore and promote measures to enhance work-at-height safety to further protect workers' safety while working at height. (LWB)
- Continue to launch large-scale promotional programmes to raise the occupational safety and health standard of the construction industry and food and beverage services sector, etc. and the occupational safety and health awareness of relevant stakeholders. (LWB)

Women

- Continue to implement gender mainstreaming in major government policies and initiatives across the board, collaborate with the Women’s Commission in encouraging NGOs in the welfare sector to apply gender mainstreaming when formulating policies and programmes, and extend the network of gender focal points. (LWB)
- Continue to provide support for the Women’s Commission in promoting the interests and well-being of women through:
 - provision of an enabling environment;
 - empowerment of women, including continued implementation of the Capacity Building Mileage Programme; and
 - public education. (LWB)
- Continue to promote women’s participation in the work of government advisory and statutory bodies. (LWB)

Urban-rural Integration

- The Government would devote resources to nature and rural conservation; detailed measures are set out in Chapter 5 under “Environmental Protection”. (ENB) ([New Initiative](#))

Religion

- Continue to liaise with various religious organisations and, having regard to their needs, play a co-ordinating role in local religious affairs. (HAB)

District Economy

- Keep supporting the continuous development of social enterprises through various means including the provision of start-up funds and strengthening support platforms to promote cross-sector collaboration and build up the capacity of social enterprises. (HAB)
- Continue to implement the pier improvement programme to enhance the structural and facility standard of a number of public piers in remote areas in order to respond to public requests and improve the accessibility to some remote scenic spots and natural heritages. For the first phase of the programme, we have conducted district consultations for about 10 public piers in the New Territories and outlying islands, and are pursuing the consultancy studies for the engineering investigation and design of the improvement works, with a view to commencing them in 2019 if funds are available. (DEVB)

Chapter 7

Enhance Governance, Streamline Administration

Preamble

A professional and efficient civil service is vital to the implementation of the new style of governance of the new-term Government. In the face of rising and diverse public aspirations, the civil service will strive to continuously improve our quality of service, whilst adhering to the “people-oriented” principle. The Government, as an employer, fully understands the work pressure on civil servants and will ensure the provision of necessary manpower support and training.

The rule of law is vital for safeguarding our rights and freedoms. It is also instrumental in promoting Hong Kong’s development as an international financial and commercial centre. We will further perfect our legal system and related infrastructure to ensure that the rule of law and justice continue to be upheld.

Law and order is the cornerstone of a stable society. Our disciplined services are firmly committed to maintaining Hong Kong as one of the safest cities in the world. We also provide reliable emergency rescue services to protect the lives and properties of the public.

The Government will continue to implement the concept of “addressing district issues at the local level and capitalising on local opportunities” in strengthening district administration. We will provide more support for District Councils (DCs) to facilitate their enhanced role in resolving district issues, participating in the management of certain

district facilities, and implementing District Minor Works Programme and community involvement activities.

Respecting the constitutional role of the Legislative Council in exercising check and balance and monitoring the Government, we will endeavour to improve the relationship between the executive and the legislature. We will engage the public, including the Legislative Council and DCs, as early as practicable in the planning and implementation of government policies and programmes so as to meet the sentiments and needs of the public.

Policy Initiatives

Executive-Legislative Relationship

- Proactively improve the executive-legislative relationship by increasing the frequency of the Chief Executive's attendance at the Legislative Council meetings to answer Members' questions, strengthening interaction between politically appointed officials and Legislative Council Members, and maintaining regular communication with all political groups in the Legislative Council to work together for the overall interests of Hong Kong. (All bureaux) (New Initiative)
- Continue to work closely with the Legislative Council in the formulation of government policies and programmes. (All bureaux)
- Continue to draw up the Government's legislative programme and monitor its progress. (CSO)

District Administration

- In order to have a better grasp on district affairs and public opinions, each Principal Official will visit all 18 districts in the coming two years to meet with people in the local communities and understand district needs. (HAB) (New Initiative)
- Continue to facilitate communication between District Councils (DCs) and the Government through participation of relevant Heads of Departments in DC meetings and in government policy briefings for DC members. (HAB)
- Continue to work with the 18 DCs in implementing signature projects. (HAB)

- Progressively increase the provisions for the District Minor Works Programme to \$400 million per annum over the current term of DCs. The increased resources will cover the capital expenditures as well as recurrent expenditures for the management and maintenance of the completed facilities. (HAB)
- Provide an annual funding of \$63 million for the 18 districts to implement the District-led Actions Scheme. The 18 District Offices, in collaboration with DCs, local communities and related government departments, are forging ahead with some 40 projects on improving environmental hygiene and addressing community needs under the scheme. (HAB)
- Continue to provide funds for DCs to implement or sponsor community involvement activities, meeting the needs of the districts. (HAB)

Public Elections

- Introduce legislative amendments to increase the number of elected seats for the sixth term of DCs. (CMAB)
- In the light of the public consultation results, we will follow up on the longer-term measures which involve amendments to various pieces of electoral legislation as recommended in the Consultation Report on Enhancement of Voter Registration System published in January 2016, and put forward legislative amendment proposals. Proposals to be put forward include improving the objection mechanism, raising the penalties for the offence of making false statements in voter registration, and introducing the requirement of submitting address proofs by electors. (CMAB)

Chief Executive Summits and Committees

- Reform the Chief Executive-led Economic Development Commission and Commission on Strategic Development, setting up the Chief Executive's Council of Advisers on Innovation and Strategic Development. (CPU) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

Restructuring the Government

- Consider the need to adjust the Government's structure to enhance administrative efficiency and to meet the demands on government's roles in the light of new circumstances and in the wake of new economic initiatives, after carefully listening to the views of different sectors of the community. (All bureaux) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

Civil Servants

- Introduce suitable measures with regard to the capability development needs of civil servants to drive innovation and enhancement in the delivery of public service. (CSO) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Having reviewed the time-limited posts, the Government will make permanent or extend those with long-term service needs from 2018-19 onwards. (CSB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Work out the details of the option for officers who joined the civil service between 1 June 2000 and 31 May 2015 to retire at 65 (for civilian grades) or 60 (for disciplined services grades) to tie in with the goal of the population policy. (CSB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Continue with the preparatory work for setting up the sixth Families Clinic and enhance the clinical psychological services and specialised dental services for civil service eligible persons. (CSB)

- Expedite the departmental quarters construction projects for six disciplined forces. (SB)

Setting up of Civil Service College

- Actively explore the feasibility of setting up a brand-new civil service college to upgrade the training facilities for civil servants, with a view to further enhancing training in the areas of leadership development, interaction and communication with the public, innovation, use of technology, etc. (CSB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

Central Policy Unit

- Revamp the Central Policy Unit to better assist the Government in the formulation of evidence-based policies, co-ordinate cross-bureau policies more effectively and encourage innovative development projects of wider public interest. (CPU) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

Efficiency Unit

- Transfer the Efficiency Unit to the Innovation and Technology Bureau, in order to build a stronger team for fostering innovation by government departments. (ITB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

Committees and Funds

- Streamline the application and project management procedures of the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund to encourage more organisations, in particular those of a smaller scale, to apply for grants to implement diversified social capital development projects. (LWB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

Promoting the Basic Law

- Continue with our work on the active promotion of the Basic Law. We will make use of different channels to enable the public to have a more comprehensive and thorough understanding of the “one country, two systems” principle and the Basic Law. In addition, we will step up efforts on Basic Law education for students, teachers and civil servants through the working groups under the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee and relevant bureaux. (CMAB)

Improving the Legal System and Enhancing the Legal Infrastructure

- Enhance the quality and effectiveness of criminal prosecution work, including raising the professionalism, including the standard of advocacy, of our prosecutors through the provision of training programmes and better use of resources. (DoJ)
- Promote co-operation among prosecutors at regional and international levels through active participation in international prosecuting organisations. (DoJ)

Law Reform Proposals

- Study possible options to enhance the efficiency and operation of the Law Reform Commission (LRC). The study includes examining the experience of various law reform agencies in other jurisdictions. (DoJ) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Support the cross-sector Working Group on Class Actions in considering the LRC’s proposals on “Class Actions”. (DoJ)

- Conduct public consultation on the bill to implement the LRC's recommendations on Enduring Powers of Attorney with regard to personal care. The proposed bill aims to extend the scope of an enduring power of attorney beyond the donor's property and financial affairs to include matters relating to the donor's personal care when the donor becomes mentally incapacitated. (DoJ)
- Conduct public consultation on a bill to implement the LRC's recommendations made in the report on Criteria for Service as Jurors. The proposed bill aims to ensure that the criteria for appointment to and exemption from jury services are set out clearly and precisely and are appropriate to present-day circumstances of Hong Kong. (DoJ)
- We are reviewing comments received from a consultation exercise on the Evidence (Amendment) Bill 2017 which ended on 31 July 2017. The proposed bill seeks to implement the LRC's recommendations made in the report on Hearsay in Criminal Proceedings. Following the recommendations of the report, the proposed bill aims mainly to reform the existing rule that hearsay evidence is generally inadmissible in criminal proceedings by giving the courts the discretionary power to admit hearsay evidence in criminal proceedings if the statutory "necessity" and "threshold reliability" criteria are satisfied. The Department of Justice plans to introduce the proposed bill into the Legislative Council in the 2017-18 legislative session. (DoJ)

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- Assist the Inter-departmental Working Group on Gender Recognition, chaired by the Secretary for Justice, in undertaking a detailed study on possible legislation and administrative measures to deal with various aspects of gender recognition in the light of the observations made in the judgement of the Court of Final Appeal in the W Case (FACV 4/2012), and in completing a public consultation on the first part of the study on gender recognition issues following publication of a consultation paper on 23 June 2017. Upon completion of the first part of the study, the Working Group will move to the next stage of the study concerning post-recognition issues. (DoJ)

Human Rights

- Promote equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientation and gender identity, with a view to fostering in the community the culture and values of inclusiveness and mutual respect. Efforts will include following up on the strategies and measures listed below:
 - providing training resources for personnel in specific fields to enhance their knowledge of and sensitivity towards sexual minorities;
 - drawing up a charter on non-discrimination of sexual minorities for voluntary adoption by relevant organisations and individuals;
 - enhancing public education and publicity to promote the message of non-discrimination;
 - reviewing and reinforcing the relevant support services; and

- conducting further study on the experience of other jurisdictions in implementing anti-discrimination measures to provide the basis for future consultations. (CMAB)
- Seek to submit the legislative amendment proposals for implementing nine prioritised recommendations under the Discrimination Law Review as proposed by the Equal Opportunities Commission in the form of a composite bill to the Legislative Council in the 2017-18 legislative session. (CMAB)
- Continue to promote children’s rights through the Children’s Rights Education Funding Scheme and the Children’s Rights Forum, etc. (CMAB)

Legal Aid and Legal Advice Services

- Enhance access to legal aid and free legal advice services to benefit more people who cannot afford private legal fees. (HAB)
- Transfer the responsibilities for formulating legal aid policy and housekeeping the Legal Aid Department from the Home Affairs Bureau to the Chief Secretary for Administration’s Office. (CSO/HAB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

Security and Anti-terrorism

- Follow through Legislative Council’s scrutiny of the United Nations (Anti-Terrorism Measures) Amendment Bill 2017, which aims at further improving the anti-terrorism regime of Hong Kong. (SB)

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- Ensure the adequacy and continuous strengthening of Hong Kong's counter-terrorism capability and preparedness by establishing an Inter-departmental Counter-Terrorism Unit to enhance counter-terrorism strategies, action plans, cross-departmental co-ordination, intelligence gathering, training and public education. (SB) (New Initiative)
 - Prepare for the commencement of the Cross-boundary Movement of Physical Currency and Bearer Negotiable Instruments Ordinance (Cap. 629) to implement a recommendation of the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering. (SB)
 - Continue with the comprehensive review of the strategy of handling non-refoulement claims: sustaining efforts in combating the smuggling of non-ethnic Chinese illegal immigrants to Hong Kong and implementing other pre-arrival control measures, expediting the screening of claims and appeals, expediting the removal of rejected claimants, studying detention measures, stepping up enforcement targeting unlawful employment and other criminal offences, and putting forward proposals for amending the Immigration Ordinance to improve the screening procedures for non-refoulement claims and related matters. (SB)
 - Continue with the anti-drug efforts through a five-pronged strategy of preventive education and publicity, treatment and rehabilitation, legislation and enforcement, external co-operation, and research. (SB)
 - Provide rehabilitation programmes which match the needs of persons in custody, and strengthen the Rehabilitation Pioneer Project to promote among young people the messages of staying away from crimes and drugs and supporting rehabilitation. (SB)

- Seek short-term and long-term solutions to improve ageing penal facilities. (SB)

Strengthening Anti-corruption Efforts

- Fulfil Hong Kong's obligation under the United Nations Convention Against Corruption through assisting other States Parties in developing and implementing corruption prevention measures, providing training services to their graft-fighters and law enforcement agents and expanding Hong Kong's global anti-corruption network. Such exchanges and assistance will benefit Hong Kong's different sectors and enterprises in venturing into business in these member countries. (ICAC)
- Further enhance integrity training for government officers and public officials to heighten their vigilance on corruption pitfalls and the misconduct in public office offence. Efforts will include the production of a new web learning package and training videos. (ICAC) (New Initiative)
- Enhance the promotion of Hong Kong's corruption-free environment and effective anti-corruption regime to the international community through various means, including the "International Perspective" section which is an online platform on the Independent Commission Against Corruption's main website, as well as electronic newsletters and visit programmes. (ICAC) (New Initiative)

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- Continue with the “Support Clean Elections” programme comprising a series of education and publicity activities; assist the authorities concerned in the review of electoral legislation, procedures and guidelines and provide corruption prevention advice; and enhance enforcement actions with dedicated efforts against any conduct suspected to be in violation of the Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance so as to uphold integrity and fairness in elections, including by-elections for public elections at various levels and the Rural Representative Election in early 2019. (ICAC)

Emergency Support

- Enhance emergency ambulance service and educate the public on the proper use of the service. (SB)
- Continue to implement effective measures to assist our residents in distress outside Hong Kong. These include:
 - a three-colour Outbound Travel Alert system;
 - services of the Assistance to Hong Kong Residents Unit of the Immigration Department; and
 - relevant contingency and notification mechanism. (SB)

e-Government

- Enhance the Government’s overall cyber security capabilities by updating and upholding the Government’s information security policies and practices, developing a strong information security culture, and facilitating the sharing of information on cyber threats within the Government and with external professional organisations. (ITB)

- Plan the construction of a government data centre complex to meet the demands of bureaux and departments for long-term information technology development and data centre services. (ITB)

Chapter 8

Connecting with Young People to Build Our Future Together

Preamble

Young people are our future. We should nurture the younger generation, help them establish a positive approach to life, and help them develop a commitment to society, a sense of national identity, a love for Hong Kong and an international perspective. Youth development is multi-faceted. In this regard, we will set up a Youth Development Commission to be chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration to enhance policy co-ordination within the Government and for better cross-bureau and inter-departmental collaboration. We will provide more opportunities for young people to fully realise their potential and encourage their participation in public affairs to build a better future for Hong Kong.

The new-term Government will allow young people to participate in policy formulation through various means, including offering them non-civil service contract posts in the revamped Central Policy Unit. Liaison and communication with young people will be enhanced so that their views and suggestions can be taken into consideration in the early stage of policy formulation. The Government will also recruit more young people into advisory committees and introduce a “self-recommendation” scheme for people with aspiration and capability, including the youth who express interest in joining statutory bodies and committees so as to engage them in public policy discussions.

Policy Initiatives

Youth Development Commission

- Upon completion of the Public Engagement on Youth Development Policy by the Commission on Youth, a “Youth Development Commission”, to be chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, will be established within the first half of 2018 to oversee the formulation and co-ordination of policies relating to youth development and steer the bureaux and departments concerned to take forward the relevant initiatives. The existing Commission on Youth under the Home Affairs Bureau will be incorporated into the higher-level Youth Development Commission. (CSO/HAB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- The first summit of the Youth Development Commission, to be held in 2018-19, will be chaired by the Chief Executive, at which stakeholders will jointly examine the outcome of the work of the commission, listening to the views of the youth. (CSO/HAB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Establish a “Youth Ambassadors” scheme and enhance the district youth networks to strengthen youth development work and communication with young people. (HAB)
- Communicate with young people through the use of various channels, including social media and online platforms. Moreover, all Political Appointees will visit schools on a regular basis to meet with students and listen to their views. (All bureaux)

Participation of Young People in Politics

- Recruit young people from different sectors to join the re-organised Central Policy Unit as full-time contract staff so that more young people can participate in policy research and co-ordination work. (CPU) (New Initiative)

Participation of Young People in Policy Discussion

- Appoint a certain number of young persons to the new Youth Development Commission, and create a favourable environment for young people to participate in committees under different bureaux. (HAB) (New Initiative)

Youth Development

- Continue to provide more resources to provide young people with internship and exchange opportunities on the Mainland and overseas in the coming five years. (HAB)
- Drawing upon the experience of the Youth Internship Programme at Palace Museum and the Youth Internship Programme at Wolong National Nature Reserve, provide more unique and enhanced internship opportunities for young people so as to strengthen their knowledge in the relevant disciplines and professional fields as well as the country's developments in different areas. (HAB)
- Continue to encourage Hong Kong young people's participation in in-depth exchange with their counterparts in the Belt and Road countries through funding schemes to foster people-to-people bond. (HAB)

- Continue to enhance the promotion of the Working Holiday Scheme between Hong Kong and other economies, and explore the signing of Working Holiday Scheme arrangements with more economies so that more of our young people can enrich their global exposure. (LWB)
- Continue to encourage young people to participate in voluntary services. Measures include continuous implementation of the United Nations Volunteers-Hong Kong Universities Volunteer Programme with the United Nations Volunteers, and the Guangdong-Hong Kong Youth Volunteer Service Programme and the Service Corps programme. (HAB)
- Increase the number of Multi-faceted Excellence Scholarship awards and make use of the Funding Scheme for Youth Life Planning Activities to promote the culture of multi-faceted excellence and multiple pathways. (HAB)
- Work with different stakeholders, including uniformed groups and other non-governmental organisations involved in youth development, to provide young people with appropriate non-formal education and training. We will also make use of the Youth Square and the Civic Education Resource Centre to enhance the promotion of youth development and civic education outside school. (HAB)
- Continue to implement the two-year Youth Integrity Fest, an all-embracing programme comprising campus activities, multi-media productions and a large-scale youth art fair, to reinforce the core value of integrity among young people. (ICAC)

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- Launch a youth promotional programme to disseminate among young people the anti-corruption advertisements created by tertiary students on multi-media platforms to step up integrity building among the young generation. (ICAC) (New Initiative)
 - The Police will continue to provide discipline, physical and team-building training for the youth through the Junior Police Call Permanent Activity Centre and Integrated Youth Training Camp at Pat Heung. (SB)
 - Continue to strengthen youth training in respect of leadership, discipline and team building through the Cadet Corps of Auxiliary Medical Service. (SB)

Youth Hostel

- Continue to implement the Youth Hostel Scheme and maintain close liaison with interested non-governmental organisations. (HAB)

Abbreviations

AAHK	Airport Authority Hong Kong
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BEAM	Building Environmental Assessment Method
CAC	Child Assessment Centre
CBL	Cross Bay Link
CCF	Community Care Fund
CEDB	Commerce and Economic Development Bureau
CEPA	Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement
CIC	Construction Industry Council
CKR	Central Kowloon Route
CMAB	Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
CoP	Commission on Poverty
CPU	Central Policy Unit
CSB	Civil Service Bureau
CSO	Chief Secretary for Administration's Office
CSSA	Comprehensive Social Security Assistance
DC	District Council

DE	day care centre for the elderly
DEVB	Development Bureau
DH	Department of Health
DoJ	Department of Justice
EDB	Education Bureau
EFLS	Environmentally Friendly Linkage System
ENB	Environment Bureau
ERB	Employees Retraining Board
FDH	foreign domestic helper
FHB	Food and Health Bureau
FSTB	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau
HA	Hospital Authority
HAB	Home Affairs Bureau
HKADC	Hong Kong Arts Development Council
HKHA	Hong Kong Housing Authority
HKIA	Hong Kong International Airport
HOS	Home Ownership Scheme
ICAC	Independent Commission Against Corruption
IT	Information Technology

ITB	Innovation and Technology Bureau
LCSD	Leisure and Cultural Services Department
LD	Labour Department
LRC	Law Reform Commission
LWB	Labour and Welfare Bureau
MCHK	Medical Council of Hong Kong
MPF	Mandatory Provident Fund
MSW	municipal solid waste
MTRCL	MTR Corporation Limited
NGO	non-governmental organisation
NSA	national sports association
ORRC	Organic Resources Recovery Centre
PRH	public rental housing
PWD	people with disabilities
QF	Qualifications Framework
R&D	research and development
RCHD	residential care home for persons with disabilities
RCHE	residential care home for the elderly
RDE	retail, dining and entertainment

RE	renewable energy
RMB	Renminbi
SB	Security Bureau
SCOLAR	Standing Committee on Language Education and Research
SEN	special educational needs
SENCO	Special Educational Needs Coordinator
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
THB	Transport and Housing Bureau
TKO	Tseung Kwan O
TKO-LTT	Tsueng Kwan O-Lam Tin Tunnel
UGC	University Grants Committee
URA	Urban Renewal Authority
VPET	vocational and professional education and training
VTC	Vocational Training Council
WKCD	West Kowloon Cultural District
XRL	Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link