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**Panel on Manpower**

**Information note prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat  
for the meeting on 16 January 2018**

**Establishment of a Human Resources Planning and  
Poverty Co-ordination Unit under  
the Chief Secretary for Administration's Private Office**

Commission for the Planning of Human Resources

In the Policy Address delivered in October 2017, the Chief Executive stated in paragraph 134 of her speech that "[T]he Commission for the Planning of Human Resources, to be chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, will commence operation early next year. The Commission will consolidate the resources and efforts of the Government and various sectors (such as the business, education and professional sectors), and collectively formulate, examine, co-ordinate and take forward policies on human resources in a holistic manner, through this initiative, we aim to ensure that our human resources would cater for the short-, medium-, and long-term development needs of Hong Kong and keep up with our country's latest developments as well as the evolving trends in the global market. This will enable our citizens to seize the manifold and enormous opportunities ahead for upward mobility."

Commission on Poverty

2. The Commission on Poverty ("CoP"), chaired by the Financial Secretary, was first established in February 2005 to examine issues relating to poverty in Hong Kong. Its major tasks were to study and identify the needs of the poor and make policy recommendations on poverty alleviation and promotion of self-reliance. Prior to its dissolution on 30 June 2007, CoP submitted a report to the Government summarizing its work and making 53 recommendations on the direction for future work to prevent and alleviate poverty.

3. The Task Force on Poverty, headed by the Secretary for Labour and Welfare, was set up in October 2007 to co-ordinate efforts across the

Government in tackling poverty-related issues. According to the Administration, the Task Force on Poverty had duly followed up on the 53 recommendations of the former CoP, and of which had been implemented and their progress had been reported to the Panel on Welfare Services.

4. CoP has been reinstated since December 2012. Chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, CoP is currently underpinned by four task forces which are the Youth Education, Employment and Training Task Force, the Special Needs Groups Task Force, the Community Care Fund Task Force and the Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund Task Force.

*Secretariat support for poverty alleviation work*

5. With the approval of the Finance Committee ("FC"), a supernumerary Administrative Officer Staff Grade C ("AOSGC") (D2) post, designated as Principal Assistant Secretary (Poverty) ("PAS(P)"), was first created on 10 March 2008 for three years to provide dedicated support to the work on poverty alleviation in the Labour and Welfare Bureau ("LWB"). In January 2011, FC approved that this post be retained for another three years until 9 March 2014. During the period between March 2008 and June 2012, PAS(P) served as the secretary to the former Task Force on Poverty and monitored the Administration's progress in implementing recommendations made by the former CoP, as well as coordinated various poverty alleviation initiatives under LWB. Since the re-establishment of CoP in December 2012, PAS(P) had become the subject officer in LWB on matters relating to the work of CoP and its task forces, in addition to other poverty alleviation initiatives. The proposal to retain the AOSGC post in LWB from 10 March 2014 to 30 June 2017 to continue providing dedicated support to the work on poverty alleviation was considered by the Establishment Subcommittee on 24 January 2014 and was approved by FC on 21 February 2014. According to the Administration, it would review the continued need for the post in the light of the progress of the work on poverty alleviation.

6. The Administration will brief the Panel on Manpower at its meeting on 16 January 2018 on the staffing proposal relating to establishment of a Human Resources Planning and Poverty Co-ordination Unit under the Chief Secretary for Administration's Private Office.