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Panel on Welfare Services and Panel on Health Services

**Proposed continuation of work of
the Joint Subcommittee on Long-term Care Policy**

Purpose

This paper reports on the progress of work of the Joint Subcommittee on Long-term Care Policy ("the Joint Subcommittee") and seeks members' endorsement of the Joint Subcommittee's proposal to continue its work beyond its 12-month period of work and, for such purpose, to seek the endorsement of the House Committee ("HC") for the Joint Subcommittee to be put on the waiting list for re-activation.

Background

2. The Joint Subcommittee was jointly appointed by the Panel on Welfare Services ("WS Panel") and Panel on Health Services ("HS Panel") in November 2016 to study the long-term care policy and services (including home-based, community based and residential care services for the elderly, people with disabilities and the chronically ill), discuss the policy concerned with the Administration and make timely recommendations.

Progress of work of Joint Subcommittee

3. The Joint Subcommittee has identified the following 18 subjects for discussion –

- (a) review of Integrated Home Care Services;

- (b) Pilot Scheme on Residential Care Service Voucher for the Elderly;
- (c) support for persons suffering from dementia and their family members;
- (d) dental care for the elderly and people with disabilities;
- (e) community support services for mentally ill and ex-mentally ill persons;
- (f) service quality of private residential care homes;
- (g) policy on subsidizing chronic patients for purchasing expensive drugs;
- (h) ageing of persons with intellectual disabilities or other types of disabilities;
- (i) Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly;
- (j) Elderly Services Programme Plan;
- (k) severe shortage of community care services;
- (l) support for carers ;
- (m) hospice services;
- (n) treatment and care services for rare disease patients;
- (o) care services for mentally incapacitated persons;
- (p) planning standards for long-term care services;
- (q) euthanasia; and
- (r) dental services for people with disabilities, the elderly and chronic patients.

4. The Joint Subcommittee has, since 16 December 2016, held nine meetings with the Administration and received views from deputations at eight of these meetings. The Joint Subcommittee has studied the first eight subjects (i.e. (a) to (h)) listed in paragraph 3 above.

Need for continuation of work

5. The Joint Subcommittee has yet to study the 10 subjects listed in items (i) to (r) of paragraph 3 above which are important issues to be addressed by the long-term care policy. In its study of these subjects, the Joint Subcommittee will, apart from meeting with the Administration, receive views from relevant non-governmental organizations, concern groups and the general public on each of the 10 subjects. It is envisaged that if the Joint Subcommittee decides to continue its work to complete its study on the remaining subjects, at least 11 meetings will be required,¹ 10 for the study of the 10 subjects and another one for wrapping up the Joint Subcommittee's study and deliberation of its observations and recommendations.

6. Rule 26(c) of the House Rules provides that if a subcommittee appointed by Panel(s) considers it necessary to work beyond 12 months of its commencement, it should, after obtaining the endorsement of the relevant Panel(s), report to HC and give justifications for an extension of the 12-month period. The Joint Subcommittee has agreed, at its meeting on 27 June 2017, that it should complete its study of all the subjects mentioned above before drawing up recommendations on the long-term care policy and services. For doing so, the Joint Subcommittee has proposed to continue its work beyond the 12-month period until 30 November 2018. The proposal was submitted to the WS Panel and HS Panel for consideration through circulation of papers. As four members had signified disapproval by the deadline for return on 3 July 2017, the Chairmen of the two Panels agreed that subject to HC's decision regarding the proposed arrangements for extension of period of work of subcommittees on policy issues in the Sixth Legislative Council which would be discussed at its meeting on 7 July 2017, the two Panels should meet (by holding separate meetings or a joint meeting) to consider the proposed extension of work of the Joint Subcommittee.

¹ Eleven monthly meetings will need to be held in November and December 2017, January to July and October to November 2018.

7. After discussing the aforesaid proposed arrangements at its meeting on 7 July 2017, HC has agreed, inter alia, that apart from the five subcommittees² which have been given permission by HC for their continuation of work and the subcommittee³ which will be given such permission if it proposes to do so, a subcommittee on policy issues currently in operation (e.g. the Joint Subcommittee) will vacate its slot upon completion of its 12-month period of work for activation of a subcommittee on the waiting list. If a subcommittee considers it necessary for it to work beyond the 12-month period, upon obtaining HC's endorsement, it will be put on the waiting list for re-activation.

8. In view of the HC's decision that the Joint Subcommittee should cease its work upon completion of the 12-month period which will end in December 2017, it is envisaged that the two meetings of the Joint Subcommittee in November and December 2017 will be used for studying two of the 10 outstanding subjects and wrapping up its study and deliberation of its observations and recommendations. The Joint Subcommittee has agreed that it should work beyond the 12-month period for studying the remaining eight subjects. For doing so, the Joint Subcommittee has proposed to seek endorsement of the two Panels and HC for the Joint Subcommittee to be put on the waiting list for re-activation.

Advice sought

9. Members are invited to note the progress of work of the Joint Subcommittee and endorse its proposal to continue its work beyond the 12-month period and, for such purpose, to seek HC's endorsement for the Joint Subcommittee to be put on the waiting list for re-activation. Subject to members' views, the proposal will be submitted to HC for consideration.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
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² The five subcommittees are: (a) Subcommittee on Matters Relating to Railways, (b) Joint Subcommittee to Monitor the Implementation of the West Kowloon Cultural District Project, (c) Subcommittee on Retirement Protection, (d) Subcommittee on Children's Rights, and (e) Subcommittee on Rights of Ethnic Minorities.

³ The subcommittee is Subcommittee to Follow Up Issues Relating to the Three-runway System at the Hong Kong International Airport .