

(Translation)

**Motion on
“Increasing transitional housing supply”
moved by Hon Vincent CHENG
at the Council meeting of 20 February 2019**

**Motion as amended by Hon Alice MAK, Hon SHIU Ka-chun,
Hon Andrew WAN and Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung**

That, in recent years, surging property prices and inadequate public housing supply have put grass-roots families in increasingly acute housing difficulties; according to the projection in the Long Term Housing Strategy Annual Progress Report 2018, over 110 000 households in Hong Kong live in inadequate housing conditions; prior to the allocation of public housing units for such households, transitional housing is an important housing option for them; yet, the failure to include transitional housing in the Long Term Housing Strategy announced on 16 December 2014 and its subsequent annual reviews has resulted in a lack of policy and financial support for transitional housing and its supply stagnancy; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to adopt the following measures to substantially increase transitional housing supply, in a bid to improve the living environment of families living in inadequate housing conditions:

- (1) to include transitional housing in the Long Term Housing Strategy, and formulate a comprehensive policy and a supply target for transitional housing, including setting the target of its total supply within the next three years at no less than 10 000 units;
- (2) to invite the Hong Kong Housing Authority, the Hong Kong Housing Society and the Urban Renewal Authority to actively increase the provision of transitional housing;
- (3) to introduce policies for encouraging private property owners to convert their residential properties or whole blocks of industrial buildings into transitional housing;
- (4) to establish a transitional housing fund of no less than \$2 billion, so as to take forward and support various transitional housing schemes;
- (5) to provide a one-stop website for the centralized dissemination of information on and the unified receipt of applications for transitional housing programmes under various organizations, while taking the

initiative to introduce transitional housing programmes to grass-roots families awaiting public housing and inviting applications from eligible families at regular intervals;

- (6) to increase the size and functions of the Task Force on Transitional Housing under the Transport and Housing Bureau, so as to support more transitional housing schemes and those of a large scale, thereby expediting transitional housing supply;
- (7) to make public a list of idle government lands or facilities that are suitable for transitional housing purpose, including those lands or facilities with tenure or tenancies due to expire within one year, so as to enable the relevant organizations to study and prepare for any transitional housing programmes as early as possible; and
- (8) to introduce measures for encouraging developers and private land owners to lend their idle lands for developing transitional housing schemes;
- (9) to implement the transitional housing policy under the Government's lead, rather than solely assisting with and facilitating those short-term measures led and implemented by the community, so as to take forward and support various transitional housing schemes, with a view to providing adequate and affordable temporary housing for families which have awaited public housing for three years or above to improve their living standards; and
- (10) to formulate a central co-ordination mechanism for vacant buildings and lands, and to entrust the Lands Department with the management of those idle government lands, facilities and buildings which are not expected to be planned for any use within the next two years, so as to expeditiously utilize the relevant resources for constructing transitional housing, and to use a portion of such transitional housing units to rehouse those residents affected by the Government's enforcement actions on housing demolition and land resumption;
- (11) to conduct studies on converting the use of part of the site which has been reserved for the second phase development of the Hong Kong Disneyland to transitional housing development; and
- (12) to actively convert vacant school premises into transitional housing;

- (13) to urge the Urban Renewal Authority, after land resumption, based on social needs to allocate more sites for constructing transitional housing, so as to rehouse those residents affected by urban redevelopment;
- (14) to streamline the application procedures for using idle government lands or facilities and increase the transparency of the application mechanism, so as to expedite the construction of transitional housing; and
- (15) to examine the enhancement and reinstatement of the policy on temporary housing areas in the colonial era, in a bid to increase transitional housing supply, so as to provide a safe, reasonably comfortable living environment for families awaiting public housing and alleviate their financial pressure arising from renting private residential units.