

**Motion on “Proactively expanding development opportunities in the
Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area”
Carried at the Legislative Council meeting of 20 March 2019**

Progress Report

Purpose

At the Legislative Council meeting held on 20 March 2019, the motion on “proactively expanding development opportunities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area” moved by Hon WONG Ting-kwong and amended by Hon Christopher CHEUNG, Hon Tony TSE, Hon YIU Si-wing, Hon Martin LIAO and Hon HO Kai-ming was carried. The wording of the motion carried is at the Annex.

2. This paper reports on the progress of relevant work.

Progress

Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Outline Development Plan)

3. The development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area is a key development strategy in the country’s reform and opening up in the new era. Through further deepening cooperation amongst Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, the objectives of the development of the Greater Bay Area are to promote coordinated economic development in the Greater Bay Area, leverage the complementary advantages of the three places, and develop an international first-class bay area for living, working and travelling.

4. The Outline Development Plan was promulgated by the Central Government on 18 February 2019, signifying that the development of the Greater Bay Area had entered into a key stage of full-fledged implementation. It is an important document guiding the development of the Greater Bay Area. The Outline Development Plan covers the period from now to 2022 in the immediate term, extending to 2035 in the long term. It involves a wide range of areas. Chapters 1 and 2 broadly describe the background of the Plan and the overall requirements respectively, including the basic principles and objectives of development. Chapter 3 is on the spatial layout, namely building on the four core cities of Hong Kong, Macao, Guangzhou and Shenzhen as core engines for

regional development, continuing leveraging their comparative advantages, and strengthening the radiating effect in leading the development of nearby regions. Chapter 4 to 11 include policy measures for developing an international innovation and technology hub, expediting infrastructural connectivity, building a globally competitive modern industrial system, taking forward ecological conservation, developing a quality living circle for living, working and travelling, strengthening cooperation and jointly participating in the Belt and Road Initiative, jointly developing Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao cooperation platforms, as well as the implementation of the Plan.

The Role of Hong Kong in the Greater Bay Area

5. Under “one country, two systems”, Hong Kong enjoys unique dual advantages. On the one hand, Hong Kong is part of China; on the other hand, our economic, legal and social systems are different from those of the Mainland. Hong Kong is a highly open and international city, with a business environment that is open and facilitating, as well as professional services that are of excellent quality. Our strengths can complement the advantages of the nine Mainland Greater Bay Area cities, such as the size of their market, their industry system, and their comparative advantages. Hong Kong can help bring in foreign investments and know-how, and also join hands with Mainland enterprises in order to develop markets and explore opportunities overseas, thereby enhancing economic development in the Greater Bay Area as a whole.

6. The Outline Development Plan clearly supports Hong Kong in consolidating and enhancing Hong Kong’s status as international financial, transportation and trade centres as well as an international aviation hub, strengthening Hong Kong’s status as a global offshore Renminbi business hub and its role as an international asset management centre and a risk management centre, promoting the development of high-end and high value-added financial, commercial and trading, logistics and professional services, making great efforts to develop the innovation and technology industries, nurturing emerging industries, and establishing Hong Kong as the centre for international legal and dispute resolution services in the Asia-Pacific region. These areas of work are all conducive to developing Hong Kong into an international metropolis with enhanced competitiveness.

Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) Government’s Work in Taking Forward the Development of the Greater Bay Area

7. The Hong Kong SAR Government will act in accordance with the guiding directions set out in the Outline Development Plan, proactively strengthen cooperation with relevant central ministries, the Guangdong Provincial Government as well as the Macao SAR Government in taking forward the development of the Greater Bay Area. The Hong Kong SAR Government's future work focuses include: (i) consolidating and enhancing Hong Kong's status as international financial, transportation and trade centres as well as an international aviation hub; (ii) developing an international innovation and technology hub; (iii) expanding the scope of development for sectors in which Hong Kong's strengths lie, (iv) strengthening infrastructural connectivity, (v) fostering youth innovation and entrepreneurship; and (vi) fully utilising Hong Kong's international connections and networks to promote the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area overseas and attract capital and talents to the Greater Bay Area.

8. The Hong Kong SAR Government will make good use of the Chief Executive's (CE) membership of the leading group, capitalise on Hong Kong's strengths to serve the country's needs, and explore and identify the economic, social and livelihood opportunities brought to Hong Kong by the development of the Greater Bay Area. Policy bureaux of the Hong Kong SAR Government will also maintain close contact with central ministries and Guangdong Provincial Government departments to ensure that they support our proposed policies relating to the Greater Bay Area. The governments of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao will establish a coordination mechanism for Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao to take forward the development of the Greater Bay Area.

9. Meanwhile, the Hong Kong SAR Government has also strengthened its internal coordination efforts. The CE announced in her 2018 Policy Address that she would chair a high-level Steering Committee for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area with its membership comprising all Secretaries of Departments and Directors of Bureaux. The Steering Committee will be responsible for the overall coordination of matters relating to Hong Kong's participation in the development of the Greater Bay Area. The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau will also set up a Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office and appoint a Commissioner for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. The Office will be responsible for coordinating with central ministries, the Guangdong

Provincial Government and the Macao SAR Government, as well as respective policy bureaux of the Hong Kong SAR Government in implementing the relevant work to take forward the development of the Greater Bay Area.

10. To increase awareness and understanding of the development of the Greater Bay Area in the wider society in Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, the Hong Kong SAR Government has launched a series of publicity efforts to help enterprises and members of the public, particularly the young people, understand and take advantage of development opportunities brought about by the development of the Greater Bay Area. The Hong Kong SAR Government will also continue to maintain close contact with Members of the Legislative Council, industries, business associations, professional bodies and relevant stakeholders, and listen to their views on how to effectively take forward the development of the Greater Bay Area, in order to ensure that relevant measures would better suit the needs of different sectors of society. The Hong Kong SAR Government will endeavour to play the role of “facilitator” and discuss with central ministries, the Guangdong Provincial Government and the Macao SAR Government to help industries with the required policy innovation and breakthrough in the process of expanding opportunities.

Facilitation Measures

11. Since August 2017, the relevant central authorities have announced a number of policy measures to facilitate Hong Kong residents studying, working and living in the Mainland. The measures, including removing requirement for the people of Hong Kong and Macao to apply for employment permits for working in the Mainland since July 2018, enable Hong Kong people to capitalise on the opportunities brought about by the development of the country. The Regulations for Application of Residence Permit for Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Residents, as announced by the Central Government, have been implemented since September 2018, which enable Hong Kong residents living in the Mainland who meet the relevant criteria to apply for residence permits. A residence permit holder is entitled to enjoy, in accordance with the law, a series of rights, basic public services and facilitation measures in the place where he or she is residing, covering areas relating to daily living including employment, education, medical care, travel, financial services and so on. This measure has made it more convenient for Hong Kong residents to live in the Mainland on a long-term basis, and provided them with more opportunities to participate in the country’s development,

including the development of the Greater Bay Area.

12. To further facilitate Hong Kong and Macao residents to use the Hong Kong and Macao Residents Entry and Exit Permits (commonly known as the “Home Return Permits”) for receiving government and public services and handling personal matters in the Mainland, the National Immigration Administration has established a service platform for the use of entry and exit permits for identity authentication. The Mainland authorities concerned will promote the use of the platform by the relevant government departments, organisations and enterprises, with a view to facilitating the use of the Hong Kong and Macao Residents Entry and Exit Permits in the areas of transport, finance, communications, education, healthcare, social security, industry and commerce, taxation and accommodation, etc. by 31 December 2019.

13. To attract young people and professionals to pursue career development in the Mainland, the Hong Kong SAR Government will continue to work closely with the relevant central authorities and the Guangdong Provincial Government to strive for the provision of more facilitation for Hong Kong people studying, working and living in the Mainland, especially in the Greater Bay Area, and to promote the smooth implementation of the measures at the local level.

Taxation Issues

14. The National Ministry of Finance and the State Taxation Administration released the Public Notice Regarding Criteria for Determining Days of Residence of Individuals without Domicile within the Mainland China (Public Notice [2019] No.34) in March this year. It stipulates that the aggregate days of residence of an individual without domicile within the Mainland in a taxable year will be calculated by his/her aggregate stay in the Mainland. Any stay in the Mainland for less than 24 hours in a day will not be counted as a day of residence. The Hong Kong SAR Government welcomes the measure, which may alleviate the tax burden of Hong Kong people in the Mainland.

15. Besides, the Hong Kong SAR Government has reached an agreement in principle with the State Taxation Administration to provide a special tax arrangement for eligible cross-boundary teachers and researchers. Under the arrangement, eligible visiting teachers and researchers from Hong Kong can enjoy tax exemption in the Mainland for three years if their income is taxable in Hong Kong. The arrangement is expected to be signed soon to facilitate the flow of

teaching and research talent between the two places.

Innovation and Technology (I&T)

16. The development of the Greater Bay Area brings invaluable opportunities to Hong Kong's I&T development. In fact, the Greater Bay Area's resources and strengths are prominent in the I&T field. Hong Kong has world-class universities, strong scientific research capabilities, internationalised business environment, sound legal system and robust intellectual property protection regime, etc. Meanwhile, the Greater Bay Area has a sizable market, as well as capabilities in commercialising scientific research results and advanced manufacturing. Hong Kong can pool innovation resources from the Mainland and across the globe and achieve synergistic development with other cities in the Greater Bay Area with regard to their comparative strengths, with a view to developing the Greater Bay Area into an international I&T hub.

17. To foster I&T development, the current-term Government has allocated and earmarked a total of more than \$100 billion for initiatives on various fronts, including developing I&T infrastructure, promoting research and development, pooling I&T talent, supporting technology enterprises, promoting re-industrialisation etc., with a view to enhancing Hong Kong's I&T ecosystem.

18. Looking ahead, the Government will take forward various measures to enhance the level of Hong Kong's I&T development, including actively establishing international research clusters, facilitating the flow of scientific research elements, promoting re-industrialisation, developing technology infrastructure etc. We will also develop the Greater Bay Area into an international I&T hub with other cities in the Greater Bay Area with regard to their comparative strengths, in order to provide Hong Kong with a broader arena for I&T development.

Finance

19. The Outline Development Plan further confirms and supports Hong Kong's status as an international financial centre, a global offshore Renminbi business hub, an international asset and risk management centre, and a platform for investment and financing serving the Belt and Road Initiative. Along the broad directions as set out in the Outline Development Plan, the Hong Kong SAR Government and the financial regulators are liaising with the Mainland authorities closely with a view to implementing the policy initiatives relating to financial cooperation in

the Greater Bay Area.

20. We have implemented certain facilitation measures relating to people's livelihood including: (i) since 2018, certain Hong Kong e-wallets can be used in making mobile payments at designated merchants in the Mainland; and (ii) since March 2019, a Hong Kong bank launched a pilot scheme for Hong Kong permanent residents to open Mainland personal bank account remotely in Hong Kong.

21. We will continue to maintain close liaison with Mainland authorities and pursue mutual connectivity and access in financial services in the Greater Bay Area at four levels, namely, individuals, enterprises, financial institutions and financial infrastructure. These include measures regarding the wider use of Hong Kong stored value facilities (e.g. e-wallets and prepaid cards) in the Mainland, cross-boundary wealth management and insurance sector related measures.

Professional Services

22. The Outline Development Plan supports expanding the scope of the mutual recognition of professional qualifications between the Mainland and Hong Kong. The Hong Kong SAR Government will continue to enhance the access of Hong Kong professional services to the Mainland market under the framework of the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement, and seek more liberalisation measures for early and pilot implementation, so as to further the development of Hong Kong professional services in the Greater Bay Area.

Creative Industries

23. The Outline Development Plan sets out to “deepen cooperation among Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao in the cultural and creative industries” and “support Hong Kong in its development into an exposition hub for television and film”. The Government will continue to support the creative sectors¹ to seize opportunities and expand markets through the CreateSmart Initiative (CSI) and the Film Development Fund.

24. Regarding the film sector, the Chief Executive has announced on

¹ Including advertising, architecture, design, digital entertainment, film, music, printing and publishing and television.

16 April five relaxation measures agreed by relevant Central authorities to further facilitate entry of the Hong Kong film industry into the Mainland market. This will provide further opportunities for Hong Kong practitioners in the Mainland in particular the Greater Bay Area which, having a population of around 70 million and shares language and culture similar to ours, presents a market of great potential for Hong Kong films. To foster more collaborations and cooperations among Greater Bay Area cities, the Government will continue to support the organisation/co-organisation of exchange programmes, film production and financing forums, etc. among Hong Kong and other Greater Bay Area cities.

25. For creative industries other than film, cooperation between trade and stakeholders in Hong Kong and other Greater Bay Area cities has grown from strength to strength, in particular in the area of design. To leverage our existing advantages and the provision of financial support, the Government has injected HK\$1 billion into the CSI in 2018 to provide greater support to the creative industries, including to help the trade expand markets and to deepen exchanges with other Greater Bay Area cities. The Hong Kong-Shenzhen design innovation hub, “Zetta Bridge, Qianhai Shenzhen”, actively pursued by the Hong Kong Federation of Design Associations, a trade organisation, is scheduled for inauguration in 2019-20. It will become an exchange platform to boost further collaborations between Shenzhen and Hong Kong in design. Through the CSI, the Government will continue to provide funding support to suitable programmes and events to be held in the hub. For instance, an incubation programme for Hong Kong creative start-ups funded by the CSI will soon be launched in the hub. CSI funding will continue to be used to sponsor other events, exhibitions and seminars, etc. in the Greater Bay Area to further promote business matching and trade exchanges.

Youth

26. The Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) implements various schemes for young people to broaden their horizons outside schools and help them learn about the opportunities brought by the development of the Greater Bay Area. Through the Funding Scheme for Youth Exchange in the Mainland, the HAB sponsors non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to organise youth exchange activities in the Mainland for young people of Hong Kong to enhance the awareness and understanding of their home country and foster their exchange with people in the Mainland. Moreover, through the Funding Scheme for Youth Internship in the

Mainland, the HAB sponsors NGOs to organise youth internship activities in the Mainland (including Mainland cities in the Greater Bay Area) for young people of Hong Kong to have an exposure to authentic work environment in the Mainland and gain a deeper understanding of the employment market and the workplace culture there. The HAB has also launched, among others, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Hong Kong Youth Internship Programme under the framework of the Funding Scheme for Youth Internship in the Mainland to provide our young people with additional internship places offered by enterprises, agencies, etc. in the Greater Bay Area. The internship places involve different professions and industries such as finance, law, commerce and information technology in order to increase their internship opportunities in the Greater Bay Area.

Transport

Hong Kong Section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link

27. During its initial stage of commissioning since September 2018, the Hong Kong Section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL) connects the West Kowloon Station with 44 Mainland destinations, including six short-haul destinations and 38 long-haul destinations. The MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) has been maintaining close communication with the China Railway Corporation (CR) and the China Railway Guangzhou Group Co., Ltd. (GRC) in adjusting the train schedule according to passenger needs and train service arrangements, so as to meet the passenger demand. Subject to the actual operational circumstances, the CR will make adjustments and arrangements to the actual train schedule when necessary. To complement the Outline Development Plan, the Transport and Housing Bureau (THB) of the Hong Kong SAR Government and the MTRCL have been proactively discussing with the CR and GRC for additional train services between Hong Kong and other cities in the Greater Bay Area, with a view to fostering the flow of people, goods, capital and information and improving the overall connectivity of the Greater Bay Area through connecting XRL to more cities in the Area.

Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge

28. Since the commissioning of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) in October 2018, the operation has generally been smooth and the vehicular flow has been gradually increasing. The THB

of the Hong Kong SAR Government has been discussing with the governments of Guangdong and Macao to gradually increase the number of cross-boundary vehicle quota for using the HZMB in an orderly manner, so as to tie in with the development of the Greater Bay Area and further utilise the HZMB. At present, the total number of Hong Kong/Guangdong cross-boundary private car quota (for Hong Kong cross-boundary private cars) for using the HZMB reaches 14 500. Separately, 33 000 Hong Kong cross-boundary private cars with quota for using the existing four land boundary control points connecting to Shenzhen are allowed to use the HZMB for travelling between Hong Kong and Zhuhai without additional procedure on a trial basis for two years. The three governments will gradually increase the number of quota.

Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point

29. The Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point (BCP) will be the seventh land-based control point on the Shenzhen-Hong Kong boundary, and is designed and constructed with the concept of providing direct access facilities for both passengers and vehicles. The public may take public transport, private cars or walk through the pedestrian subway to reach the new BCP for immigration clearance. The new BCP is designed to handle 17 850 vehicle trips and 30 000 passenger trips daily. The new land port on the Shenzhen side will connect with the Shenzhen Eastern Corridor to Longgang, whence to the eastern part of Guangdong Province via the Shenzhen-Huizhou Expressway (also known as Huizhou-Yantian Expressway) or the Shenzhen-Shantou Expressway, thereby providing a direct and efficient cross-boundary access between Hong Kong and eastern Shenzhen, Huizhou as well as eastern Guangdong, and greatly reducing the travelling time between Hong Kong/Shenzhen and eastern Guangdong, facilitating smooth and efficient people and cargo flows across the boundary and enhancing the "one-hour living circle" in the Greater Bay Area, which are of strategic importance to Hong Kong's long-term economic development. The governments of Guangdong and Hong Kong will arrange various types of cross-boundary transport to travel between the two places via the Heung Yuen Wai BCP, including cross-boundary coaches, cross-boundary hire cars, cross-boundary private cars and cross-boundary goods vehicles, to cater for different transport needs of travellers and the freight industry. The new BCP is under construction and the Hong Kong SAR Government is striving to complete it this year for early commissioning of the new BCP.

Air Transport

30. The construction of transport infrastructure is one of the vital elements in the development of the Greater Bay Area. The Three-Runway System (3RS) at Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) will expedite the establishment of a globally competitive air transport system within the region. The Airport Authority Hong Kong envisaged that, upon the full commissioning of the 3RS project in 2024, HKIA will be able to handle around 100 million passengers and 9 million tonnes of cargo annually by 2030. The enhanced capacity will meet the growing demand of air traffic in the region and cater for the Mainland's economic and aviation logistics development.

31. The THB of the Hong Kong SAR Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Civil Aviation Authority of China in February 2019 to further expand and open up the areas covered and means of transport for intermodal code-sharing arrangements between the Mainland and Hong Kong. Operators of land and sea transport may share the codes of flights operated by designated airlines of both sides as an extension of flights, enabling both services (air-to-sea or air-to-land) to be available in the Global Distribution System. Such expansion allowed Hong Kong to fully grasp the immense opportunities brought about by the commissioning of the XRL and the HZMB and echoed with the initiatives of the Outline Development Plan to develop inter-modal code-sharing as well as consolidate and enhance Hong Kong's status as an international aviation hub. In addition, the Airport Authority Hong Kong plans to enhance its intermodal facilities and provide air-to-bridge/bridge-to-air bonded bus service, which connects passengers from PRD region via the HZMB for outbound flight directly to the restricted area of HKIA direct. Overseas visitors can also benefit from the service.

32. The MoU also expands the scope of the provisions on cross-boundary helicopter services to cover points in the whole Guangdong Province. This serves as a condition for the further development of cross-boundary helicopter services between Hong Kong and cities in the Greater Bay Area, with a view to providing travellers with a high-end and convenient means of air transport.

Exchange of Civil Servants

33. The Civil Service Bureau will strengthen training for civil servants on the development of the Greater Bay Area and enhance exchanges between civil servants of the Hong Kong SAR Government

and the Mainland Greater Bay Area cities, including: (i) organising a series of thematic seminars on the Greater Bay Area; (ii) strengthening training content on the Greater Bay Area in national studies programmes held in the Mainland; (iii) organising thematic visits to the Mainland Greater Bay Area cities to study their latest developments in innovation and technology and smart city implementation, and enhance exchanges with Mainland officials, experts and practitioners in the fields; (iv) arranging civil servants from the Mainland Greater Bay Area cities to attend the Hong Kong Public Service Management Programme to facilitate exchange of public administration experience; (v) exploring the setting up of a civil service exchange programme with the Mainland Greater Bay Area cities; and (vi) launching a dedicated theme page on the Greater Bay Area on the e-learning portal, Cyber Learning Centre Plus, to provide civil servants with the latest updates on the development of Greater Bay Area.

Tourism

34. To further strengthen Hong Kong's role as an international tourism hub and a core demonstration zone for multi-destination tourism, the Government has proposed to the Mainland authorities various facilitating immigration arrangements for travellers.

35. The Government will also continue to leverage on the platform of the Tourism Federation of Cities in Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao Greater Bay Area jointly established with the Macao Special Administrative Region and the other Greater Bay Area cities in December 2017 to strengthen exchanges and cooperation in areas of publicity and promotion as well as market regulation amongst the places concerned.

36. In addition, the Hong Kong Tourism Board will continue to cooperate with the tourism authorities of Guangdong Province and Macao, through the platform of the "Guangdong, Hong Kong & Macau Tourism Marketing Organisation", to jointly promote to overseas markets multi-destination itineraries and tourism products. The Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong is also pressing ahead with the development of its web-based tourism resource platform, so as to provide the trade with tourism information on, inter alia, the Greater Bay Area, such that they can develop more diversified tourism products. The platform is expected to be officially launched in the fourth quarter of 2019.

Social Welfare

37. The Hong Kong SAR Government respects the wish of Hong Kong elderly persons who choose to retire on the Mainland and has been implementing various facilitating measures to support these elderly persons.

38. On elderly social security, we have put in place arrangements in 1997 and 2005 for eligible Hong Kong elderly persons who reside in Guangdong and Fujian respectively to receive the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA; currently ranges from about HK\$3,600 to HK\$6,300 per month, depending on health conditions) under the Portable CSSA Scheme. Subsequently, the Hong Kong SAR Government launched the Guangdong Scheme and Fujian Scheme in 2013 and 2018 respectively to enable eligible Hong Kong elderly persons who reside in these two Provinces to continue to receive Old Age Allowance (currently at HK\$1,385 per month).

39. To further facilitate elderly persons who choose to retire in these two Provinces, the 2018 Policy Address announced the extension of the Old Age Living Allowance (including the monthly normal allowance currently at HK\$2,675 and the monthly higher allowance currently at HK\$3,585) to Guangdong and Fujian. The initiative is expected to be implemented in early 2020 at the earliest.

40. On elderly services, the Hong Kong SAR Government has, since 2014, implemented the Pilot Residential Care Services Scheme in Guangdong to purchase residential places from two residential care homes for the elderly respectively located in Yantian of Shenzhen and Zhaoqing which are operated by non-governmental organisations in Hong Kong, to enable elderly persons queuing for subsidised care and attention places in Hong Kong to choose to reside therein, which provides an alternative residing location. In 2017, the Hong Kong SAR Government announced the extension of the Scheme for three years and would continue to monitor its implementation to determine the way forward.

Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Civil Service Bureau
Commerce and Economic Development Bureau
Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau
Home Affairs Bureau
Innovation and Technology Bureau
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Transport and Housing Bureau
May 2019

**Wording of the Motion on
“Proactively expanding development opportunities in the
Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area”
Carried at the Legislative Council meeting of 20 March 2019**

That after prudent planning, the Central Government has promulgated the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (‘the Plan’), the contents of which have taken on board the views of Hong Kong, Macao and the major cities in the Greater Bay Area, setting out the directions for future development of the Greater Bay Area, putting forward specific economic development objectives for Hong Kong and proposing a number of measures to facilitate Hong Kong people in living and working on the Mainland; in order to enable Hong Kong to properly perform the role of a core engine for regional development, grasp new opportunities of future development and improve people’s livelihood, this Council urges the SAR Government to formulate policies and allocate more resources to develop pillar industries, innovation and technology and other emerging industries, and to adopt more proactive measures to facilitate the daily living and travel of members of the public in Hong Kong, so as to offer appropriate channels of business expansion in the Greater Bay Area to enterprises of different sizes (micro, small, medium and large), create more new development and employment opportunities for Hong Kong people, particularly young people, and provide Hong Kong people with living space of better quality; the SAR Government should also proactively take part in promoting the development of the Greater Bay Area to the benefit of the Hong Kong economy, and through various measures, expand the leading advantages of the financial sector in Hong Kong by, among others, accelerating the process of forging connectivity with the financial markets on the Mainland, facilitating healthy competition among the three exchanges under one country and making concerted efforts to take forward the development of a financial innovation zone in the Greater Bay Area, so as to promote ‘connectivity among three new domains’ featuring connectivity in capital, talents and systems, and hence achieving full connectivity among the financial markets in the Greater Bay Area; other specific measures include:

- (1) appealing to the Mainland authorities that the Mainland individual income tax payable by Hong Kong people working in

the Greater Bay Area must not be higher than the tax payable by them in Hong Kong;

- (2) strengthening cooperation with other cities in the Greater Bay Area in operating and managing the existing and soon-to-be-completed cross-boundary transport infrastructure, so as to enhance the overall operational efficiency of the facilities;
- (3) capitalizing on the advantages of Hong Kong to promote the formulation of performance standards for the service industry in the Greater Bay Area that are in line with the international standards, and expanding the scope of mutual recognition of professional qualifications among the Mainland, Hong Kong and Macao;
- (4) cooperating with various cities in the Greater Bay Area and the relevant enterprises to launch more youth internship programmes targeting the professional sectors and organize more competitions relating to the planning and design of construction projects for young professionals; and
- (5) strengthening cooperation with other cities in the Greater Bay Area to increase opportunities for exchanges of and training for civil servants at various levels in Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao by, among others, organizing more thematic courses and seminars on and field trips to the Greater Bay Area, and to study the exchange of civil servants with Guangzhou and Shenzhen on a pilot basis for short-term attachment training in the relevant corresponding departments, so as to develop empathetic thinking in swapped positions; and
- (6) seizing the development opportunities in the Greater Bay Area to promote the development of the tourism industry and attract more overseas visitors to visit Hong Kong on multi-destination itineraries, so as to give play to the role of Hong Kong as a tourism hub;
- (7) from the perspective of Hong Kong, categorizing the organized information on the latest developments and opportunities in the Greater Bay Area into areas of policy, service and industry, and disseminating the relevant information in a one-stop and user-friendly manner, particularly putting emphasis on explaining and publicizing the new thinking, new institutions and new concepts therein, so as to enable Hong Kong people and Hong Kong enterprises to see the full picture at a glance;
- (8) drawing up comprehensive planning and strategic measures for Hong Kong to align with and promote the development of the Greater Bay Area and the innovative cooperation mechanism with timely updates; and

- (9) putting in place mechanisms for proactively giving audience to the aspirations, opinions and suggestions of the local business, industrial and entrepreneurial sectors, labour sector, professional sectors, academic sector, think tanks, youth, etc. in relation to the Greater Bay Area, while enhancing interaction to assist with and facilitate their proactive participation in the development of the Greater Bay Area and ensuring that the relevant planning and measures are appropriate and timely, in order to firmly seize the opportunity to work together to strive for the framework of an international first-class bay area and world-class city cluster to be essentially formed in the Greater Bay Area in four years and lay a solid foundation for its maturity in 2035;
- (10) implementing convenient immigration measures, including incorporating the Home Visit Permits of Hong Kong people into the Mainland's digital certification system, and allowing Hong Kong people to renew or replace their Home Visit Permits directly on the Mainland, so as to provide convenience for Hong Kong people in travelling to and from the Greater Bay Area;
- (11) promoting mutual recognition of occupational qualifications in the Greater Bay Area to encourage the flow of talents in the region, and perfecting the contribution arrangements for Hong Kong people working on the Mainland in participating in social insurance to better protect their employment in the Greater Bay Area;
- (12) allowing Hong Kong people to conduct their Mainland business using their Hong Kong address, and relaxing the existing maximum amount of cash that can be carried into or out of the Mainland and the tax arrangements for some goods, so as to provide convenience for Hong Kong people in starting and developing businesses in the Greater Bay Area;
- (13) promoting exchange and cooperation on social services among the Governments of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, including enhancing the portability of welfare measures and perfecting the elderly care policy and social services in the Greater Bay Area, so as to provide convenience for Hong Kong people residing in the Greater Bay Area;
- (14) strengthening partnership among Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao in the regulation and operation of the tourism industry to jointly develop a world-class tourist destination cluster; and
- (15) introducing an electronic payment card that can be used in all cities in the Greater Bay Area to provide convenience for Hong Kong people in their daily travel and spending in the region.