Panel on Commerce and Industry

Subcommittee on Issues Relating to the Stimulation of Hong Kong's Economy

List of follow-up actions arising from discussion at the meeting on 29 January 2021

The Administration was requested to provide a written response to the following proposals/requests put forth by members at the meeting on 29 January 2021:

- (a) given the availability of vaccines and the enhanced COVID-19 testing services, setting up an inter-departmental group within the Government to study the possibility of relaxing certain anti-epidemic measures based on prescribed conditions to help different industries resume businesses to stimulate local economic activities, and to revive the operation of some important industries (e.g. the aviation industry and the cross-boundary land transportation industry);
- (b) allocating 100 billion of investment gain of the Exchange Fund managed by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority for (i) injecting into the Employment Support Scheme to help sustain the operation of businesses and establishment of an Unemployment Assistance Fund; and (ii) handing out consumption vouchers to the public to stimulate local consumption;
- (c) handing out consumption vouchers to members of the public by way of providing rebate to relevant businesses to boost the economy and help fuel the recovery of businesses;
- (d) further enhancing the SME Financing Guarantee Scheme ("SFGS") by (i) extending the provision of interest subsidy and principal moratorium for guaranteed loans beyond April 2021; and (ii) increasing the maximum loan amount of the new Special 100% Guarantee Product under SFGS from the total of employee wages and rents for 12 months to that for two years; and
- (e) taking immediate action to liaise with the catering industry to devise ways to help catering operators resume evening dine-in service before the Lunar New Year, the peak season of the industry, to help them tide over their financial difficulties.

Council Business Division 1 Legislative Council Secretariat 2 February 2021