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#### MEMO

To : CCS(2)1

From: CCS(4)1

Ref : CB4/PAC/R75

Date: 2 March 2021

#### **Public Accounts Committee**

# Recoverability of the outstanding advances to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The Public Accounts Committee ("PAC") Report No. 75 was tabled in the Council on 24 February 2021. In Part 5 of the Report on the "Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Reports of the Director of Audit on the Accounts of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region for the year ended 31 March 2019 and the Results of Value for Money Audits (Report No. 73)", PAC was informed that the Administration was considering PAC's suggestion to the Panel on Security ("the Panel") in March 2020 that the Administration should re-consider writing off the outstanding payment (see the **Appendix** attached).

2. PAC has noted that the subject matter has been put on the List of outstanding items for discussion of the Panel and recommended that this issue be continued to be followed up by the Panel. PAC will continue to keep in view of the development on the subject matter.

Wendy JAN CCS(4)1

<u>Encl</u>

#### *P.A.C. Report No.* 75 – *Part* 5

Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Reports of the Director of Audit on the Accounts of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region for the year ended 31 March 2019 and the Results of Value for Money Audits (Report No. 73) [P.A.C. Report No. 73]

### **Planning, construction and redevelopment of public rental housing flats** (Paragraphs 26 to 28 of Part 5 of P.A.C. Report No. 73)

- 26. Hon SHIU Ka-fai declared that he was a member of HKHA and engaged in the trading business of construction materials.
- 27. The Committee was informed that according to HKHA's Public Housing Construction Programme as at September 2020, the estimated total public housing production of HKHA and the Hong Kong Housing Society in the five-year period from 2020-2021 to 2024-2025 would be 101 300 units. As announced in the Chief Executive's 2020 Policy Address, based on the Long Term Housing Strategy Annual Progress Report 2020 published by the Transport and Housing Bureau, the Administration had identified all the land required for providing 316 000 public housing units to meet the demand for about 301 000 public housing units in the coming 10 years (i.e. 2021-2022 to 2030-2031). The Committee noted that the Administration had submitted the Long Term Housing Strategy Annual Progress Report 2020 and Public Housing Construction Programme 2020-2021 to 2024-2025 to the LegCo Panel on Housing at its meeting held on 14 January 2021.
- 28. The Committee wishes to be kept informed of further development on the subject.

## Recoverability of the outstanding advances to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

(Paragraphs 29 and 30 of Part 5 of P.A.C. Report No. 73)

- 29. The Committee was informed that the Security Bureau reiterated again by letter to the Hong Kong Sub-office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in September 2020 the Administration's stance and registered the Hong Kong community's expectation of an early recovery of the outstanding advances. The Administration was now considering the Committee's suggestion to the LegCo Panel on Security in March 2020 that the Administration should re-consider writing off the outstanding payment.
- 30. The Committee recommends that the issue be continued to be followed up by the LegCo Panel on Security and wishes to be kept informed of further development on the subject matter.