

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. CB(2)1248/20-21  
(These minutes have been  
seen by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PS/1/19

**Panel on Welfare Services**

**Subcommittee on Issues Relating to the Silver Age Card**

**Minutes of the second meeting**  
**held on Friday, 26 February 2021, at 11:00 am**  
**in Conference Room 2B of the Legislative Council Complex**

- Members present** : Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH (Chairman)  
Hon YIU Si-wing, BBS  
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP  
Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP  
Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun, MH, JP
- Public Officers attending** : Mr HO Kai-ming, JP  
Under Secretary for Labour and Welfare
- Mr TAN Tick-yee  
Acting Deputy Director (Services)/Assistant Director of  
Social Welfare (Elderly)  
Social Welfare Department
- Clerk in attendance** : Ms Maisie LAM  
Chief Council Secretary (2) 3
- Staff in attendance** : Mr Roger CHUNG  
Council Secretary (2) 3
- Miss Alison HUI  
Legislative Assistant (2) 3
-

**I. Proposal of introducing "Silver Age Card" for older persons aged 60 to 64**

[LC Paper No. CB(2)811/20-21(01) and FS03/20-21]

The Subcommittee deliberated (index of proceedings attached at **Annex**).

2. Members agreed that the Chairman would, on behalf of the Subcommittee, (a) write to the Secretary for Labour and Welfare ("SLW") or the Chief Secretary for Administration to express dissatisfaction with the non-attendance of SLW at the meeting to advise the Subcommittee the Administration's position on how to further promote the welfare benefits for silver-age persons aged 60 to 64 and answer questions from members in this regard; and (b) meet with SLW to discuss the work plan of the Subcommittee. The Chairman invited members to inform the Secretariat if there were other items they wished to arrange for discussion at future meetings of the Subcommittee and any representatives of the Administration to be invited to attend the discussion.

Admin 3. The Subcommittee requested the Administration to provide a Strength-Weakness-Opportunity-Threat Analysis in relation to the welfare benefits of persons aged 60 to 64 based on the areas of concern set out in the work plan of the Subcommittee as agreed by the Panel on Welfare Services on 11 May 2020.

**II. Any other business**

4. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 12:01 pm.

Council Business Division 2  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
30 June 2021

**Proceedings of the second meeting of  
the Subcommittee on Issues Relating to the Silver Age Card  
on Friday, 26 February 2021, at 11:00 am  
in Conference Room 2B of the Legislative Council Complex**

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
<i>Agenda item I – Proposal of introducing "Silver Age Card" for older persons aged 60 to 64</i>			
000503 - 000623	Chairman	<p>Opening remarks</p> <p>Members noted the fact sheet on silver age cards in selected places prepared by the Research Office of the Information Services Division of the Legislative Council Secretariat. [FS03/20-21]</p>	
000624 - 000844	Chairman Admin	<p>Briefing by the Administration [LC Paper No. CB(2)811/20-21(01)]</p>	
000845 - 001555	Chairman Mr Vincent CHENG Admin	<p>Mr Vincent CHENG expressed dissatisfaction with the non-attendance of the Secretary for Labour and Welfare ("SLW") at the meeting to answer questions from members on, among others, the implementation progress of lowering the eligible age of the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities ("the Fare Concession Scheme") to 60. He asked the Administration why it needed more than two years to implement the lowering of the age threshold for the Fare Concession Scheme since the Chief Executive announced the initiative in January 2020, whereas the consumption voucher scheme, which was of a larger scale in terms of the number of beneficiaries and facility operators, could be implemented in July 2021 after the announcement by the Financial Secretary in the 2021-2022 Budget Speech in February 2021.</p> <p>The Administration stressed that representatives attending the meeting were part of the Government team and SLW would be informed of members' views expressed at the meeting. As regards the Fare Concession Scheme, the implementation of the measure to lower the eligible age to 60 involved system development. Relevant provisions had been earmarked in the 2021-2022 Budget and the Administration was discussing with the Octopus Cards Limited on the preparatory work with a view to implementing the measure in the first quarter of 2022.</p> <p>Mr Vincent CHENG remarked that SLW did not understand the difficulties faced by the grassroots under the current economic situation. He did not subscribe to the Administration's explanation on the time required to implement the lowering of the eligible threshold of the Fare Concession Scheme and called for an advancement of the implementation timetable to mid-2021. In response, the Administration advised that the lowering of the eligible age would require the development and issuance of a tailor-made Personalized Octopus Card ("P-Card") to eligible beneficiaries by the Octopus Cards Limited. It was</p>	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
		<p>expected that the above measure would be implemented progressively from the first quarter of 2022.</p>	
001556 - 002236	<p>Chairman Mr LEUNG Che-cheung Admin</p>	<p>Citing the Smart Ageing Card of Shenzhen as a reference, Mr LEUNG Che-cheung urged the Administration to introduce a smart "Silver Age Card" with multi-application capacity for persons aged 60 or above such that they could use a single digital identity to access to various public services and welfare benefits, such as the Old Age Living Allowance and those benefits currently offered under the Senior Citizen Card Scheme and the Fare Concession Scheme. In response, the Administration advised that taking forward the suggestion would involve different government departments and private companies which currently offered different types of benefits for elderly persons.</p> <p>On Mr LEUNG Che-cheung's concern that the Administration required more than two years to implement the lowering of the eligible age of and other anti-abuse measures under the Fare Concession Scheme and might adjust the fixed rate of \$2 to \$3 in the future to account for inflation, the Administration assured members that the concessionary fare would remain at \$2 per trip within the current-term Government.</p>	
002237 - 003212	<p>Chairman Admin</p>	<p>The Chairman expressed grave dissatisfaction with the non-attendance of SLW at the meeting which, in his view, was not conducive to enhancing the relationship between the Executive authorities and the Legislature. On the Chairman's view that the paper provided by the Administration for the meeting [LC Paper No. CB(2)811/20-21(01)] was not informative enough to enable an effective discussion on the various areas of concern set out in the work plan of the Subcommittee as agreed by the Panel on Welfare Services on 11 May 2020, the Administration advised that it would communicate with the Clerk on the issues to be discussed by the Subcommittee.</p> <p>The Chairman urged the Administration to substitute a smart "Silver Age Card" with multi-application capacity for the Senior Citizen Card. The eligible age for the "Silver Age Card" should be 60 and cardholders should be able to enjoy the benefits currently offered under the Senior Citizen Card Scheme and be eligible for other new benefits such as Elderly Health Care Voucher. While the matter straddled across various policy bureaux and involved private companies, the Labour and Welfare Bureau ("LWB") should proactively discuss with the relevant parties to explore how members' suggestions in this regard could be taken forward.</p> <p>The Administration advised that the Senior Citizen Card Scheme was launched in 1994. The Card did not carry any benefits itself. Relevant concessions or discounts were offered to cardholders by the participating organizations on a voluntary basis. At present, there were about 1.35 million cardholders, covering about 90% of overall eligible elderly persons aged 65</p>	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
		<p>or above. Under the Fare Concession Scheme, the P-Card would first be issued to new beneficiaries aged 60 to 64. The Administration would study at the next stage the way forward of the Senior Citizen Card and consult the participating organizations on their willingness to lower the age threshold for the concessions or discounts currently offered by them under the Senior Citizen Card Scheme to 60.</p>	
003213 - 004059	<p>Chairman Mr KWOK Wai-keung Admin</p>	<p>Mr KWOK Wai-keung cast doubt about the long lead time needed by the Administration for the development and issue of the P-Card to new beneficiaries under the Fare Concession Scheme. He expressed concern that while the Administration strived to build Hong Kong into a smart city, it seemed to have no intention to bring greater convenience to older persons in their daily lives such that they could apply for and enjoy the benefits under the Senior Citizen Card Scheme in a digital way. Given that there was no statutory retirement age in Hong Kong, there was also no standard age threshold for the various benefits currently offered by different policy bureaux for older persons. He urged the Administration to map out a concrete timetable to introduce a "Silver Age Card" with multi-application capacity for persons aged 60 or above to facilitate their access to various public services and welfare benefits.</p> <p>The Administration advised that it had all along attached importance to the well-being of elderly persons. If members so wished, LWB could work with other policy bureaux to provide for members' reference a consolidated list of benefits provided by the Government for persons aged 60 or above. The Chairman reiterated that as the highest Official responsible for social welfare policies, SLW should attend meetings of the Subcommittee to understand members' views on how to further promote the well-being of silver-age persons aged 60 to 64.</p>	
004100 - 005146	<p>Chairman Mr Vincent CHENG Admin Mr KWOK Wai-keung</p>	<p>Mr Vincent CHENG expressed regret at the non-attendance of SLW at the meeting. Mr KWOK Wai-keung remarked that to ensure effective discussion, SLW had to attend meetings of the Subcommittee to decide whether and, if so, how members' various suggestions to promote the welfare benefits of persons aged 60 to 64 could be taken forward.</p> <p>Mr Vincent CHENG urged the Administration to effect the lowering of the eligible age of the Fare Concession Scheme to 60 in July 2021, same as the time the consumption vouchers were targeted to be issued to eligible Hong Kong residents; and enable elderly persons to apply for and enjoy social welfare benefits through the "iAM Smart" digital services platform. Mr KWOK Wai-keung was concerned about the lack of coordination among policy bureaux in implementing initiatives.</p> <p>The Administration advised that according to the current timetable, the lowering of the eligible threshold of the Fare Concession Scheme was targeted to be implemented in the first quarter of 2022. LWB would relay the suggestion to include</p>	

<b>Time marker</b>	<b>Speaker(s)</b>	<b>Subject(s)</b>	<b>Action required</b>
		more government services under the "iAM Smart" platform to the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer.	
005147 - 005528	Chairman	Members agreed that the Chairman would, on behalf of the Subcommittee, (a) write to SLW or the Chief Secretary for Administration on the non-attendance of SLW at this meeting; and (b) meet with SLW to discuss the work plan of the Subcommittee. The Chairman invited members to inform the Secretariat if there were other items they wished to arrange for discussion at future meetings of the Subcommittee and any representatives of the Administration to be invited to attend the discussion.	
005529 - 010016	Chairman Mr YIU Si-wing Admin	Noting that the number of anonymous Elder Octopus Cards issued currently far outnumbered the number of eligible beneficiaries under the Fare Concession Scheme, Mr YIU Si-wing asked whether the Administration would put in place other anti-abuse measures in addition to the issue of P-Cards (e.g. stepping up ticket inspection and enforcement and raising the penalty level) in tandem with the lowering of the eligible age of the Scheme to 60. In response, the Administration advised that a series of anti-abuse measures as recommended in the comprehensive review of the Fare Concession Scheme would be implemented progressively.	
010017 - 010135	Chairman Admin	The Chairman requested the Administration to provide a Strength-Weakness-Opportunity-Threat Analysis in relation to the welfare benefits of persons aged 60 to 64 based on the areas of concern as set out in the work plan of the Subcommittee.	<b>Admin</b>
010136 - 010414	Chairman Mr YIU Si-wing	Mr YIU Si-wing remarked that there was a need to ensure a proper interface of the proposed "Silver Age Card" which aimed to facilitate persons aged 60 to 64 to access to a range of public services and welfare benefits, the P-Card and the Senior Citizen Card. The Chairman opined that the Administration should make reference to the cards of similar nature issued in Australia, Singapore and Shenzhen for persons aged 60 or above in considering the way forward.	
<i>Agenda item II - Any other business</i>			
010415 - 010441	Chairman	Arrangement for the next meeting	