

**Follow-up actions on Members' motions not intended to have legislative effect  
passed by the Council in the 2023 session**  
(as at 25 January 2024)

No.	Date of Council meeting, and subject and wording of motion	Follow-up actions taken by relevant committees of the Council
(1)	<p data-bbox="304 398 549 439"><u>11 January 2023</u></p> <p data-bbox="304 488 847 651"><b>Comprehensively reviewing and improving Hong Kong's dental service system and manpower needs</b></p> <p data-bbox="304 701 858 2148">That with an increasingly acute population ageing in Hong Kong, there is a significant increase in the demand for public dental services among members of the public, but due to an acute shortage of the relevant manpower, the dental health of the public is not duly protected, thus affecting their quality of life, most especially in the case of the elderly; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to expeditiously formulate a '10-year development strategy for dental services', in a bid to comprehensively review and improve Hong Kong's dental service system and human resources support, including enhancing training for and making good use of 'dental therapists', and formulate short-, medium- and long-term development measures, with a view to fully developing public dental services and, through the planning for primary healthcare services, providing the public with a safety net for the provision of basic dental care services, thereby properly taking care of the dental health of the general public; the Government should introduce dental care vouchers in the short term, increase the number of places in dentistry in</p>	<p data-bbox="922 398 1299 439"><u>Panel on Health Services</u></p> <p data-bbox="922 488 1401 1122">Members generally supported the proposal to amend the Dentists Registration Ordinance (Cap. 156) to provide new pathways for the admission of qualified non-locally trained dentists to practise in specified institutions and modernize the regulatory framework for dentists and ancillary dental workers. Some members also urged the Administration to introduce the amendment bill to the Legislative Council as soon as possible.</p> <p data-bbox="922 1171 1401 2148">The proposed amendments required local dental graduates and non-locally trained dentists who had passed the Licensing Examination to undergo a one-year internship or assessment period prior to registration. Concern was raised about whether students currently studying in dentistry programmes would be exempted from internship. Some other members expressed concern as to whether non-locally trained dentists who had passed the Licensing Examination were required to undergo a one-year assessment period even if they had practised overseas for many years. These members were concerned that the lengthy period of assessment would</p>

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	<p>Hong Kong and implement a limited registration scheme for dentists in the medium term, and promote the provision of cross-boundary dental care services in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and the setting up of dental clinics for the elderly in the 18 districts in the long term; this Council also urges the Government to develop public-private partnership in dental services; this Council also urges the Government to admit qualified non-locally trained dental healthcare personnel as appropriate.</p> <p><i>(The progress report provided by the Administration was circulated to Members under LC Paper No. CB(3)232/2023 dated 28 March 2023.)</i></p>	<p>affect the incentive of non-locally trained dentists to practise in Hong Kong.</p> <p>Some members noted that dentists with limited registration and those with special registration could be exempted from taking some parts or the whole of the Licensing Examination for obtaining full registration if they had been employed in the specified institutions for a total of at least five years, and had been confirmed by their employing institutions as having served satisfactorily and competently as dentists during the service period. These members disagreed with the aforesaid arrangement and were concerned that some dentists might be exempted from taking the Licensing Examination solely by pleasing their supervisors. They were of the view that the exemption condition could only be that the dentists' professional proficiency was up to standard. The responsibility of assessment should be borne by the Dental Council of Hong Kong ("Dental Council"), or it should appoint consultant dentists of the Hospital Authority or the Department of Health to conduct the assessment. If the performance of individual dentists as assessed was unsatisfactory, the Dental Council should require them to take the Licensing Examination.</p>

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		<p>Expressing support for the Administration’s proposal to establish the professional status of dental hygienists and dental therapists, some members asked whether dental therapists could provide dental care services for elderly persons upon recognition of their professional status. Some other members noted that the proposed legislative amendments allowed ancillary dental workers to provide preventive dental care services without the presence of a dentist, and requested the Administration to explain the meaning of “without the presence of a dentist”. These members were also concerned that if ancillary dental workers were allowed to practise privately upon recognition of their professional qualifications, it might lead to a loss of manpower in the public sector.</p>
(2)	<p><u>11 January 2023</u></p> <p><b>Promoting the development of green transport</b></p> <p>That to curb the extreme weather caused by global warming and the serious damage that it brings to society, countries around the world are actively promoting carbon reduction living; transport is said to be the second largest source of carbon emissions in Hong Kong, accounting for about 20% of the total carbon emissions; in this</p>	<p><u>Panel on Environmental Affairs</u></p> <p>When the Panel on Environmental Affairs discussed the charging network in support of the popularization of electric vehicles (“EVs”) in Hong Kong at the meeting on 21 April 2023, Members exchanged views with the Administration on the strategies to promote adoption of electric commercial vehicles, including the provision of sufficient</p>

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	<p>connection, this Council urges the Government to formulate more proactive decarbonization strategies to reduce carbon emissions from transport and step up efforts to promote the development of green transport; specific measures include: enhancing the transport layout and building green transport infrastructure; improving the legislation and the regulatory regime to support the application and research of green transport equipment and facilities; further promoting the popularization of electric vehicles, and formulating comprehensive recovery and recycling arrangements for waste electric vehicle batteries as early as possible, so as to keep pace with market development; expeditiously implementing a producer responsibility scheme for waste electric vehicle batteries; developing a comprehensive green transport scheme and enhancing the collaboration and division of work among different government departments; continuing to promote the adoption of data-driven green transport solutions by government departments and the transport industry, and making better use of public-private partnership to promote sustainable transport development; expediting the use of hydrogen fuel cell vehicles and other zero-carbon vehicles to achieve low-carbon transport; actively promoting the use of sustainable aviation fuels by the aviation industry, and encouraging the Airport Authority Hong Kong and fuel suppliers to undertake relevant studies and investments to assist the</p>	<p>charging facilities in the territory. The Administration was requested to take the lead by increasing EV charging facilities in government premises and mandating the provision of EV chargers or charging infrastructure at all parking spaces in future public works projects.</p> <p>During the briefing by the Administration on the key environmental measures in the Chief Executive’s 2023 Policy Address on 30 October 2023, Members suggested the Administration consider providing subsidies to transport operators to encourage them to switch to EVs. They also expressed support for developing hydrogen applications in Hong Kong and requested the Administration to promote innovations in hydrogen technologies and collaborate with other Mainland cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (“GBA”) to achieve complementarity of advantages in this regard.</p> <p>At the meeting on 15 December 2023, the Administration briefed the Panel on the strategies for promoting the conversion of petrol filling stations (“PFSs”) into quick charging stations (“QCSs”). Members generally expressed support for converting PFSs into QCSs and provided</p>

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	<p>aviation industry in emission reduction and ultimately achieve the target of net zero emissions; promoting the use of energy-saving and low-emission technologies in the maritime industry, including subsidizing and encouraging the installation of solar panels, the study of the technology of electric vessels and the provision of adequate ancillary facilities for electricity supply, so as to reduce vessel emissions in a comprehensive manner; strengthening talent training to meet the trend and manpower needs of green transport development; and enhancing publicity and education to encourage green travel, with a view to striving for early realization of the vision of zero-carbon transport and achieving the target of carbon neutrality by 2050.</p> <p><i>(The progress report provided by the Administration was circulated to Members under LC Paper No. CB(3)183/2023 dated 14 March 2023.)</i></p>	<p>suggestions for the Administration to consider multiple use of PFS sites (i.e. EV charging and battery swapping as well as hydrogen refuelling).</p> <p>From 7 to 9 August 2023, the Panel conducted a duty visit jointly with government officials from the Environment and Ecology Bureau to three cities in GBA, namely Guangzhou, Foshan and Shenzhen, to obtain first-hand information about the latest developments of these cities in areas including adoption of new energy transport, clean energy and renewable energy. Members suggested that the Administration should, by drawing reference from the relevant technologies and experience of the Mainland, expedite the upgrading of Hong Kong's public charging facilities and the provision of a territory-wide quick charging network for commercial vehicles with no designated parking spaces. The Administration was also requested to consider introducing ultra-fast charging technology for public charging facilities, and application of the cascade battery energy storage technology to EV charging.</p> <p>The Panel and the Panel on Transport conducted a joint visit to the Citybus Hydrogen Refuelling Station and its hydrogen bus on 12 December</p>

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		<p>2023. Members urged the Administration to expedite the development of a legal framework for the production, storage, transportation and application of hydrogen energy.</p> <p>Members followed up on the Administration's progress in introducing a producer responsibility scheme ("PRS") on EV batteries when the Panel discussed the development of the recycling industry at the meeting on 26 June 2023, and during discussion on the establishment of a common legislative framework for PRSs at the meeting on 28 November 2023. Members called on the Administration to enhance communication with the relevant trades in taking forward the PRS for EV batteries, and to support the development of a local recycling industry in this regard.</p> <p>At the meeting held on 17 October 2023, when the Administration consulted the Panel on its air quality improvement strategies, Members suggested that the Administration should, among others, ride on the commissioning of the prospective Hong Kong Offshore Liquefied Natural Gas ("LNG") Terminal to take forward the use of LNG by marine vessels in Hong Kong, with a view to further improving air quality.</p>

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		<p data-bbox="922 271 1209 309"><u>Panel on Transport</u></p> <p data-bbox="922 356 1401 1805">The Panel on Transport noted that the Administration would introduce a loan scheme with 100% guarantee for the taxi trade to encourage taxi owners to replace their liquefied petroleum gas, petrol or hybrid taxis with battery electric taxis (“e-taxis”). Members enquired whether the Administration had set a target number for the successful replacement of conventional taxis by e-taxis under the said loan scheme. They also suggested rolling out more support measures to the taxi trade, such as provision of charging facilities, arranging for the recycling of batteries and provision of subsidy for the purchase of e-taxis. Expressing concern about the current acute shortage of dedicated quick charging facilities for e-taxis in Hong Kong, members opined that the loan scheme alone could not induce the trade to switch from conventional taxis to e-taxis and enquired whether the Administration would map out an overall plan for the electric vehicle charging network to address the e-taxi charging problem.</p> <p data-bbox="922 1854 1401 2145">On the Administration’s proposal to establish a regulatory framework for electric mobility devices (“EMDs”) to promote green and low-carbon living, members were generally</p>

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		<p>supportive but were concerned about the scope of use of EMDs. They enquired about the safety requirements and certification arrangements to be formulated, details of law enforcement like speed limits and mandatory training to be required of users etc.</p> <p>The Panel conducted a joint visit with the Panel on Environmental Affairs to the Citybus Hydrogen Refuelling Station to observe Hong Kong's first hydrogen refuelling station and the world's first tri-axle hydrogen double deck bus. They opined that the Government should put in place a legal framework for the production, storage, transportation and application of hydrogen energy as soon as possible, so as to promote the development of hydrogen transport and innovations in hydrogen technologies in Hong Kong.</p>
(3)	<p><u>18 January 2023</u></p> <p><b>Reinforcing Hong Kong's status as a regional logistics hub</b></p> <p>That Hong Kong has all along been an important logistics hub in the region, and the trading and logistics industry is one of Hong Kong's four key economic pillars, and under the 14th Five-Year Plan, the Central Authorities clearly support Hong Kong to enhance its status as a shipping, trading and logistics centre and an international aviation hub,</p>	<p><u>Panel on Economic Development</u></p> <p>Members urged the Administration to provide sufficient sites for the logistics industry. Specifically, it should properly relocate operators displaced by the Administration's resumption of brownfield sites and assist them in seamlessly migrating to new sites to continue their operations, instead of making the operators concerned wait</p>



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	<p>but in recent years, the volume of cargo handled by the Hong Kong port has shown a continued decline, and Hong Kong has continued its slide in ranking among the world's container ports; the COVID-19 epidemic has seriously affected the operation of cross-boundary point-to-point land cargo transport which, coupled with a shortage of land and human resources, has hindered the development of the logistics industry in Hong Kong; on the other hand, although the Hong Kong International Airport has been among the world's top ranking airports in terms of cargo throughput in recent years, due to the impact of the epidemic, it will take a longer time for the overall freight capacity of the aviation industry to return to the pre-epidemic level; with Hong Kong being an important entrepot in the region, in order to complement the new economic development pattern of domestic and international dual circulation and perform its roles as 'participant' and 'facilitator' effectively, this Council urges that, apart from proposing in the Policy Address to formulate an action plan to promote high value-added modern logistics development, the Government should at the same time formulate long-term policies that further promote the development of Hong Kong as an international shipping centre and an international aviation hub and are conducive to the overall development of the logistics industry, especially in land provisioning, promote the development of 'smart port' to facilitate the transformation and upgrading of the logistics industry, enhance the cargo clearance process</p>	<p>for years before reopening their operations in new locations. This would prevent the operators from facing a crisis of closure due to the land resumption and the development of the industry from being seriously jeopardized. Members also suggested that the Administration should consider giving priority to the displaced brownfield operators in using the four parcels of logistics land covering about 19 hectares which would be gradually disposed of or establish an industry relocation committee to assist different industries in relocating to new sites for continued operation. The Administration was also called for proper planning of other related ancillary facilities, such as parking spaces for commercial vehicles, as well as shortening the time for the design, approval and construction in relation to the relevant developments and ancillary facilities to meet the development needs of the industries.</p> <p>Expressing support for the Pilot Subsidy Scheme for Third-party Logistics Service Providers, members expressed concern about how the Administration could regularize the scheme, how much additional funding would be required after regularization and whether a timely review of</p>

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	<p>to give play to the strengths of Hong Kong as an international aviation hub and the distinctive features of intermodal transshipment, and provide incentives to attract young talents to join the logistics industry, with a view to reinforcing Hong Kong's status as a regional logistics hub.</p> <p><i>(The progress report provided by the Administration was circulated to Members under LC Paper No. CB(3)286/2023 dated 21 April 2023.)</i></p>	<p>the scheme would be conducted.</p> <p>Members expressed support for the Administration's efforts to develop and connect different logistics information platforms locally to facilitate the interconnection and sharing of logistics data. There was a call for the ownership and operation of the platforms to be placed with the Administration, in view of the considerable amount of sensitive data on the platforms. There was also a suggestion that the Administration should make good use of technology and logistics data to develop Hong Kong into a logistics data centre.</p> <p>Members urged the Administration to work with relevant Mainland authorities to formulate concrete plans on the collaborated development with other cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area ("GBA") and the Mainland, such as how to utilize the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge ("HZMB") to facilitate full value chain logistics services. This was to improve coordination among various parties in their respective areas of responsibility and bring into play each other's strengths to achieve a mutually beneficial and all-win outcome. Concern was also raised about the Administration's progress of</p>

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		<p>the equity injection into the Zhuhai Airport, which was to enhance cooperation with the latter and make full use of the infrastructure and transport network of the Hong Kong International Airport and HZMB to strengthen intermodal transport by sea, land and air for furthering the development of the logistics industry.</p> <p>It was suggested that the Administration should actively explore new business opportunities in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Middle East and the Belt and Road countries. At the same time, it should enhance cross-sectoral collaboration and increase manpower to expedite the implementation and promotion new initiatives.</p> <p>Concern was raised about whether the Administration had consulted e-commerce operators in Hong Kong and the Mainland in launching the Action Plan on Modern Logistics Development, as many Mainland cross-border e-commerce platforms engaged in the sales of goods to Hong Kong. There was a view that the Administration should look into how to utilize Hong Kong's warehousing and logistics services to capture the new demand for modern logistics services in GBA.</p>

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		<p>There was a view that the Administration should step up publicity on the current situation of the logistics industry among young people, so as to promote the understanding that the logistics industry was a high-end and advanced industry employing the application of technology and the use of data, with a view to encouraging more young people to join the industry. There was a view that the logistics industry was facing a manpower shortage. For instance, drivers at the Kwai Tsing Container Terminals had an average age of almost 70. Concern was raised about how the Administration would address the manpower shortage in the short to medium term, and whether consideration would be given to increasing the quota for importing labour into the industry, particularly the port industry, in order to ensure that there would be sufficient manpower to meet the industry's development needs.</p> <p>Pointing out the increasing global focus on environmental, social and governance (“ESG”) performance as an important indicator for business operations, members urged the Administration to step up its efforts in publicizing ESG to the industry, in addition to providing existing relevant funding schemes, so as to help the industry understand that its</p>

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		<p>sustainable development required compliance with the industry's latest ESG requirements in future operations.</p> <p>Pointing out the continued decline in container throughput in recent years, members were of the view that, instead of focusing only on promoting the development of the logistics industry through high-value goods or high-end technology, the Administration should place greater emphasis on increasing cargo volume and throughput, including those of traditional logistics goods, cold chain goods, fresh produce, pharmaceuticals, etc.</p> <p>Concern was raised about the development of the Kwai Tsing Container Terminals, their land use and the formulation of concrete proposals to facilitate the future transformation of their hardware.</p>
(4)	<p><u>8 February 2023</u></p> <p><b>Improving the mental and psychological health of the public and promoting the development of Hong Kong's counselling profession</b></p> <p>That in the past three years, under the dual impacts of the disturbances arising from the opposition to the proposed legislative amendments and the COVID-19 epidemic, the overall psychological health of Hong Kong people is deteriorating,</p>	<p><u>Panel on Health Services</u></p> <p>Members generally welcomed the 10 enhanced measures on mental health services to offer more comprehensive support to persons in mental recovery who had a history of severe mental disorders and other persons with mental health needs. They also requested the Administration to provide the implementation timetable of such measures. Concern was also raised about the ways to</p>

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	<p>their mental health index even falls below the passing level, and the psychological health conditions and emotional problems of the public are in dire need of concern and attention from the community; the emotional problems of students are also of major concern to the community, with a number of surveys finding that students have exhibited symptoms of depression and anxiety as a result of being ‘stressed out’, and the student suicide rate even rose to a record high last year, and the Government has yet to formulate comprehensive long-term strategies and provide adequate targeted support for child and adolescent mental health; given that Hong Kong will not be able to substantially increase the manpower of psychiatric doctors and clinical psychologists in the short term, and psychologists are an indispensable and integral part of the primary healthcare system and play an important role in improving the mental and psychological health of the public, while the counselling profession can also help service recipients analyse, interpret, assess and address various psychological problems, but Hong Kong has all along lacked a career structure for the counselling profession; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to:</p> <p>(1) promote the development of Hong Kong’s counselling profession and make good use of counselling professionals to contribute towards improving the mental and psychological health of the public; and</p>	<p>ensure that mental patients would not pose risks to the public while waiting for the Hospital Authority’s services and how to handle such patients if there was a change in their condition during the waiting period. Some other members considered it necessary to review the criteria for discharge from hospital for patients with severe mental illness. In addition, some members suggested setting up a hotline for the public to report suspected cases of mental violence. Some members were also of the view that there was inadequacy in the existing mechanism for mental health assessment or early intervention, and they hence expressed concern as to whether the relevant work would be enhanced.</p> <p>Some members were of the view that while the measures to enhance mental health services implemented by the Administration were relatively comprehensive, many of them could not be implemented effectively due to factors such as shortfall of professional staff. Therefore, they expressed concern about the ways to improve and what measures were put in place to address the shortage problem of professional staff. In this connection, some members suggested that community psychiatric nurses should be stationed in District Health</p>

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	<p>(2) implement a statutory registration system for educational psychologists and clinical psychologists, and exercise effective monitoring and regulation of the relevant professions through setting professional standards and formulating codes of professional conduct, so as to protect the public's right of access to quality psychological health services.</p> <p><i>(The progress report provided by the Administration was circulated to Members under LC Paper No. CB(3)672/2023 dated 17 August 2023.)</i></p>	<p>Centres and nursing schools should be allowed to recruit non-local students, who would stay in Hong Kong after training under the Vocational Professionals Admission Scheme. There was also concern about the possibility of setting up community mental health service teams under the stepped care model.</p> <p><u>Panel on Education</u></p> <p>The Panel on Education has discussed measures to promote student mental health and support students with mental health needs at its meeting on 7 July 2023.</p>
(5)	<p><u>8 February 2023</u></p> <p><b>Modernizing the Government's governance</b></p> <p>That President XI Jinping has put forward 'four proposals' for the SAR Government, including further improving governance and earnestly addressing people's concerns and difficulties in daily life; in order to 'realize, safeguard and advance the fundamental interests of all our people' as mentioned in the report to the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the Government should strive to achieve the modernization of its governance, including:</p> <p>(1) making good use of talents, and reforming the civil service recruitment, training and promotion system;</p>	<p><u>Panel on Public Service</u></p> <p>The Panel on Public Service made a number of suggestions for civil service recruitment and training at several meetings after the passage of the motion. On recruitment, members considered that the Administration should expand the pool of eligible candidates, speed up recruitment process and conduct more year-round recruitment. On training and development, the Administration should review the relevant policy and enrich training programmes, so as to nurture a team of civil servants who loved Hong Kong and were patriotic, had good morals and integrity, and were competent, people-oriented and</p>

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	<p>(2) improving e-Government services and one-stop services to coordinate communication among various government departments, and receive and follow up on public complaints efficiently;</p> <p>(3) improving the primary-level governance system through introducing grid management, and encouraging officials to visit various districts to closely communicate with the public and mobilize the participation of community forces; and</p> <p>(4) improving the social distribution system,</p> <p>thereby enhancing its credibility and executive ability, and raising the people's quality of life.</p> <p><i>(The progress report provided by the Administration was circulated to Members under LC Paper No. CB(3)264/2023 dated 14 April 2023.)</i></p>	<p>efficient for Hong Kong's continual progress.</p> <p><u>Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting</u></p> <p>The Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting discussed the proposed upgrade of "iAM Smart" to realize "single portal for online government services" at its meeting on 20 March 2023. Expressing concern about the unsatisfactory utilization rate of "iAM Smart", members suggested that the Administration should optimize the services, streamline the registration process, and formulate targeted promotional strategies with reference to information such as the age distribution and educational level of users, and the trend of user registrations at various self-registration kiosks. On the development of "Consented Data Exchange Gateway", members expressed concerns about how the Administration would ensure the protection of the public's privacy. Questions were raised as to whether the Administration would put in place a unified mechanism for members of the public to choose whether or not to allow interchange and sharing of their personal data among government departments.</p>



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		<p data-bbox="922 230 1398 309"><u>Panel on Home Affairs, Culture and Sports</u></p> <p data-bbox="922 360 1398 1335">The Panel on Home Affairs, Culture and Sports held a joint meeting with the Panel on Constitutional Affairs to discuss the Administration’s proposals on improving governance at the district level (“the Proposals”). Members were supportive of the Proposals, and considered that the Proposals could fundamentally improve governance at the district level and strengthen the district governance structure, thereby achieving the enhancement of governance efficacy at the district level and bringing benefits to members of the public. The relevant Bill to implement the Proposals was passed at the Council meeting of 6 July 2023.</p> <p data-bbox="922 1386 1398 2136">In view of the merging of existing geographical constituencies into 44 larger constituencies, which would result in an enlargement of District Council (“DC”) members’ service areas, some members suggested that the Administration might consider providing additional resources to DC members for setting up more than one ward office. The Administration advised that a review of the remuneration packages for DC members would be conducted in 2025 with reference to the actual operational experience of the</p>

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		<p>seventh-term DCs and relevant data.</p> <p>The Panel welcomed the formation of the District Services and Community Care Teams (“Care Teams”) in Tsuen Wan and Southern District, which commenced operation in May 2023. Members were pleased to note that Care Teams in the remaining districts would be formed progressively in the third quarter of 2023.</p> <p>Members considered that Care Teams should serve the purpose of plugging gaps by assisting the Administration in early identification of families in need of special care (e.g. elderly singletons, families of elderly doubletons and single-parent families). Members suggested that the Care Teams should strengthen collaboration with various bureaux/departments, with a view to arranging early professional services for people in need of assistance.</p> <p><u>Panel on Constitutional Affairs</u></p> <p>The Panel on Constitutional Affairs held a joint meeting with the Panel on Home Affairs, Culture and Sports to discuss the Administration’s proposals on improving governance at the district level (“the Proposals”). Members were supportive of the Proposals, and considered that the Proposals could</p>

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		<p>fundamentally improve governance at the district level and strengthen the district governance structure, thereby achieving the enhancement of governance efficacy at the district level and bringing benefits to members of the public.</p> <p>In particular, members considered that the reform of District Councils (“DCs”) under the Proposals would effectively rectify the problems of politicization and populism brought by DC Geographical Constituency (“DCGC”) members under the existing system, thereby encouraging public policy discussions from a strategic perspective and allowing DCs to return to the livelihood-oriented positioning as district advisory bodies in accordance with Article 97 of the Basic Law. Members also took the view that the reformed DCs would facilitate the Government to solicit public views, which should be conducive to formulating more appropriate policies and more effective planning of district services.</p> <p>The relevant Bill to implement the Proposals was passed at the Council meeting of 6 July 2023.</p> <p><u>Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene</u></p> <p>The Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene has not</p>

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		discussed issues relating to modernizing the government's governance in the 2023 session.
(6)	<p data-bbox="309 407 577 443"><u>15 February 2023</u></p> <p data-bbox="309 492 845 573"><b>Improving the policies on foreign domestic helpers</b></p> <p data-bbox="309 622 858 1765">That many families have employed foreign domestic helpers ('FDHs') to take care of their children or elderly family members; with the ageing of the Hong Kong society, an increasing number of elderly people and persons with chronic illnesses are in need of long-term care, and with more and more women joining the workforce, the duties of taking care of the family and performing household chores in many families have fallen on FDHs, resulting in society's growing demand for FDHs; statistics show that the number of FDHs working in Hong Kong has increased to about 400 000 in recent years; given the wide concern in the community over the regulation of FDH agencies, the premature termination of contracts and job-hopping by FDHs as well as their quality, this Council urges the Government to adopt the following measures to enhance the protection of the interests of both the employers and FDHs:</p> <p data-bbox="309 1814 858 2141">(1) comprehensively reviewing and improving the policies on FDHs, including establishing an FDH Authority, reviewing and amending the standard employment contract for FDHs and the Code of</p>	<p data-bbox="922 407 1225 443"><u>Panel on Manpower</u></p> <p data-bbox="922 492 1404 2152">The Panel on Manpower discussed the review of the Code of Practice for Employment Agencies ("CoP") and the enforcement of labour legislation by the Labour Administration Branch of the Labour Department at its meetings on 21 March and 17 October 2023 respectively. At the two meetings, members suggested that the Administration should consider imposing criminal liability on employment agencies ("EAs") which had breached CoP, so as to enhance the effectiveness of regulation. In respect of the problem of employers/former employers of foreign domestic helpers ("FDHs") being harassed by money lenders or financial intermediaries because of their FDHs' failure to repay loans, some members suggested that the Administration should explore setting a cap on the amount of loans to be granted by a financial institution to an FDH, so as to prevent FDHs from over-borrowing; or consider making it mandatory for FDHs to declare the amount of their debts. The Administration advised that it would revise CoP to prevent EAs from colluding with financial institutions to arrange FDHs to take out loans,</p>

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	<p>Practice for Employment Agencies;</p> <p>(2) ensuring that FDH agencies must comply with the relevant legislation such as the Employment Agency Regulations; following the practices of the real estate and insurance industries by establishing a mandatory licensing regime and a rating system for FDH agencies and practitioners;</p> <p>(3) setting up a dedicated information website for FDHs and employers, drawing up a ‘blacklist’ of FDHs engaged in premature termination of contracts and job-hopping, and making public the ‘blacklist’ as well as the various service fees charged by FDH agencies for public reference;</p> <p>(4) establishing a test centre of housework techniques and a skills assessment system for FDHs whereby FDHs are required to pass a skills test on performing household chores and taking care of the elderly and children before assuming duty, so as to ensure that the skills of FDHs reach a certain standard, and if FDHs do not meet the basic requirements, FDH agencies should be required to provide training courses for FDHs; and</p> <p>(5) studying how to prevent the employers from suffering</p>	<p>and would promote more widely among FDHs the message of prudent financial management. However, given that FDHs enjoyed the same protection and rights as local employees under the labour legislation, the Administration had no plan to restrict FDHs’ borrowing from local financial institutions or to require FDHs to declare their liabilities.</p>

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	<p>harassment when their FDHs who have borrowed from banks or finance companies are unable to repay their debts; and</p> <p>(6) setting up a hotline for FDHs and employers.</p> <p><i>(The progress report provided by the Administration was circulated to Members under LC Paper No. CB(3)274/2023 dated 18 April 2023.)</i></p>	
(7)	<p><u>15 February 2023</u></p> <p><b>Making Chinese History a compulsory subject at senior secondary level</b></p> <p>That in order to enable secondary school students to have a more comprehensive and deeper understanding of the historical development of the country, thus enhancing their sense of belonging to our country, affection for the Chinese people and sense of national identity, this Council urges the authorities to, against the backdrop of optimizing the four senior secondary core subjects, enhance secondary school students' knowledge of Chinese history, covering the aspects of geography and culture, so that they can understand and explore the development and various facets of Chinese history and examine the inter-relationships between culture, geography and history; this Council also urges the authorities to continue to review the senior secondary curriculum and include</p>	<p><u>Panel on Education</u></p> <p>The Panel on Education has not discussed the related issues after the passage of the motion.</p>

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	<p>Chinese history as ‘essential learning experiences’ throughout the entire secondary education, with a view to achieving the curriculum aims and objectives of the secondary education.</p> <p><i>(The progress report provided by the Administration was circulated to Members under LC Paper No. CB(3)248/2023 dated 12 April 2023.)</i></p>	
(8)	<p><u>15 March 2023</u></p> <p><b>Improving the mental health of children and young people</b></p> <p>That, since the mental health problems of children and young people have become increasingly serious and the Government will not be able to substantially increase the relevant healthcare manpower in the short term, this Council urges the Government to review the existing policies and provide early prevention, identification and intervention in such areas as parenting education, school-based education, public education and community support, as well as offer support to families of children and young people with mental health problems, so as to improve the mental health of children and young people.</p> <p><i>(The progress report provided by the Administration was circulated to Members under LC Paper No. CB(3)673/2023 dated 17 August 2023.)</i></p>	<p><u>Panel on Health Services</u></p> <p>A number of members expressed concern about the multiple cases of students committing suicide since the start of school year in September 2023. Some members suggested displaying posters with encouraging messages in schools and organizing sharing sessions for parents and school representatives, etc. They also suggested that the Government should intervene by reviewing the amount of homework in schools. Some other members suggested that schools should organize activities such as sports day and music concerts in the first two weeks of the school year to make students look forward to going to school. Recognizing the close relationship between students’ mental health and their families of origin, some members suggested strengthening parental education and resilience training for students.</p>

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		<p>Noting that only about one-fifth of publicly-funded schools in Hong Kong participated in the Student Mental Health Support Scheme in the 2021-2022 school year, some members raised concern about the ways to attract more schools to join the Scheme in the short term, and whether the Administration had any contingency measures in place to strengthen the capability for early identification of cases involving emotional problems within the family, school setting, workplace and the community in the short term.</p> <p><u>Panel on Education</u></p> <p>On 7 July 2023, the Panel on Education discussed issues relating to the promotion of student mental health. Members called on the Administration to improve professional resources in schools and strengthen cross-sectoral collaboration to early identify students with high suicidal risks. The Panel will keep in view matters related to the mental health of students.</p>
(9)	<p><u>15 March 2023</u></p> <p><b>Integrating associations of Chinese fellow townsmen into the district governance systems</b></p> <p>That associations of Chinese fellow townsmen, having the resources advantages of the Mainland, can support the SAR Government's</p>	<p><u>Panel on Home Affairs, Culture and Sports</u></p> <p>During the policy briefing by the Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (“SHYA”) on the 2023 Policy Address, members noted that the Home Affairs Department would launch the “Clansmen Culture Promotion</p>



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	<p>district work; as the key supporters of ‘loving the country and Hong Kong’, associations of Chinese fellow townsmen have long been serving clansmen and residents in districts and playing a role in fostering cohesion and unity in the community; in this connection, this Council urges the SAR Government to support integrating associations of Chinese fellow townsmen into the district governance systems, appoint outstanding individuals from the associations to district consultative bodies, promote better liaison and cooperation between District Offices and the associations, facilitate more cooperation among the associations to support the SAR Government’s district work, appropriately allocate resources to encourage the associations to launch district services, and support volunteers from the associations to participate in District Services and Community Care Teams, so that the associations can provide appropriate and targeted services to more clansmen and residents, with a view to building a better home together and promoting the achievement of good governance in Hong Kong.</p> <p><i>(The progress report provided by the Administration was circulated to Members under LC Paper No. CB(3)442/2023 dated 31 May 2023.)</i></p>	<p>Scheme” in the first quarter of 2024 for three years with a total allocation of \$30 million reserved for application by local clansmen associations to organize activities to promote clansmen culture and facilitate cultural exchange. The Scheme aimed to deepen the public’s understanding of and sense of belonging to their hometown, thereby promoting the spirit of loving the Motherland, Hong Kong and the hometown.</p> <p><u>Panel on Constitutional Affairs</u></p> <p>The Panel on Constitutional Affairs noted that under the Administration’s proposals on improving governance at the district level, the reformed District Councils (“DCs”) would be composed of appointed, District Committees Constituency (“DCC”), DCGC and ex-officio members. The DCC of a DC was composed of all members of the District Committees (i.e. the District Fight Crime Committees, the District Fire Safety Committees and the Areas Committees collectively) of the District. Members of the District Committees came from all walks of life, many of whom were members of the local community with clansmen association background. Members considered that the reformed DCs, together with the District Committees, would help strengthen governance at the district level and serve as</p>

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		good partners of the Government.
(10)	<p><u>22 March 2023</u></p> <p><b>Strengthening and expanding the advantage of Hong Kong as the largest offshore Renminbi business centre</b></p> <p>That, Hong Kong has all along played an important role in the internationalization of Renminbi ('RMB'); when taking part in the deliberation with a delegation at a session of the National People's Congress on 5 March this year, President XI Jinping pointed out that 'facing fierce global competitions, we must open up new areas and new tracks in development and foster new growth drivers and new strengths'; Hong Kong has all along been the testing ground for the opening up and reform of the financial sector in the Mainland and is the world's largest offshore RMB business hub, processing about 75% of offshore RMB settlements globally, and the distinctiveness of its financial business, which cannot be replaced by comparable international financial centres in New York and London, is a market driver and an advantage of Hong Kong most worthy of expansion; in this connection, this Council urges the SAR Government to collaborate with the relevant state departments to, under the primary principles of ensuring the effective forestalling and defusing of systemic financial risks and safeguarding national financial security, more speedily innovate and expand the formulation</p>	<p><u>Panel on Financial Affairs</u></p> <p>During the briefing on the policy initiatives relating to financial services in the Chief Executive's 2023 Policy Address, the Panel on Financial Affairs and the Administration discussed issues relating to the promotion of offshore Renminbi ("RMB") business. Members supported the early implementation of the proposal to include RMB counters under the Southbound Trading of Stock Connect, with a view to enhancing Hong Kong's status as a global offshore RMB business hub. The Panel also discussed the progress of promoting financial cooperation between the Middle East countries and Hong Kong, particularly on enhancing the development of offshore RMB business, during the briefing on the work of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority on 17 November 2023.</p>

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	<p>of market rules and implementation of market conduct for businesses with similar mode, scale, etc. to RMB-denominated asset trading in Hong Kong, in order to enhance the functions of RMB in serving the real demand in Hong Kong, realize the virtuous circulation of RMB offshore and help promote two-way flow financially, thereby strengthening and broadening the distinctive advantage of the financial market unique to Hong Kong and further facilitating the internationalization of RMB.</p> <p><i>(The progress report provided by the Administration was circulated to Members under LC Paper No. CB(3)412/2023 dated 24 May 2023.)</i></p>	
(11)	<p><u>22 March 2023</u></p> <p><b>Promoting the integration of Hong Kong people and businesses into the overall development of the country</b></p> <p>That President XI Jinping has stressed the need to enhance the coverage of domestic circulation, promote the orderly relocation of key industries within and outside the country, and strengthen China’s discourse power in international circulation, thereby leading and guiding Hong Kong to seize the enormous opportunities brought about by the national development; at the same time, it is mentioned in the report to the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China that the country will support Hong Kong and Macao in</p>	<p><u>Panel on Constitutional Affairs</u></p> <p>On 24 July 2023, the Panel on Constitutional Affairs discussed the “Hong Kong/Chongqing Cooperation Conference” Mechanism (“the Mechanism”) established between the Hong Kong Special Administration Region Government (“HKSARG”) and the Chongqing Municipal Government in 2023. Members noted that the Mechanism was the ninth co-operation mechanism established by HKSARG with Mainland provinces/municipalities/regions. At present, HKSARG has already established regional cooperation mechanisms with Guangdong, Shenzhen,</p>

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	<p>better integrating themselves into its overall development and playing a greater role in realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation; in order to further accelerate the pace of integration of Hong Kong, especially Hong Kong people and businesses, into the overall development of the country, this Council urges the SAR Government to improve the functions and services of the relevant policy bureaux and public organizations in a bid to expeditiously enhance the policy measures that support Hong Kong people and businesses as well as their related organizations, draw up specific key performance indicators for medium- and long-term initiatives and a concrete blueprint for the development of ‘intergovernmental relations’, and strengthen the support for Hong Kong businesses by promoting sales of ‘Brand Hong Kong’ in the Mainland, with a view to strengthening impetus for growth and enabling Hong Kong to play a better role as a ‘participant’ in domestic circulation and a ‘facilitator’ of international circulation, thereby promoting Hong Kong’s long-term prosperity and stability; this Council also urges the SAR Government to make use of the new Steering Group on Integration into National Development in a bid to review and revise the implementation mechanism for aligning with national development strategies, and foster the awareness of proactively serving the country’s development among Hong Kong people and businesses; this Council</p>	<p>Shanghai, Beijing, Fujian, Sichuan, Hubei, Chongqing and the Pan-Pearl River Delta Region respectively.</p> <p>Besides, Hong Kong and Chongqing also signed the “Co-operation Memorandum of the High-Level Meeting cum First Plenary Session of the Hong Kong/Chongqing Co-operation Conference” to pursue holistic co-operation to serve the country's high quality development and carry out in-depth co-operation in 11 co-operation areas, such as finance, innovation and technology, culture and tourism, talent exchange, etc.</p> <p>In addition, the following two co-operation agreements were signed by government departments and statutory bodies of Hong Kong and Chongqing:</p> <p>(a) the “Strategic Cooperation Memorandum between Chongqing Municipal Commission of Commerce and Hong Kong Trade Development Council” which, among others, encouraged Chongqing enterprises to make use of Hong Kong’s professional services, capital and international platform and enhance the bilateral cooperation in trade facilitation; and</p>

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	<p>also urges the SAR Government to strongly support Hong Kong’s patriotic societies and patriots in various positions to play a role in the integration of Hong Kong people and businesses into the overall development of the country.</p> <p><i>(The progress report provided by the Administration was circulated to Members under LC Paper No. CB(3)472/2023 dated 8 June 2023.)</i></p>	<p>(b) the “Cooperation Memorandum on Innovation and Technology between Hong Kong and Chongqing” which, among others, supported co-operation between universities and scientific research institutions in the two places in basic and applied research and development projects in key areas.</p> <p><u>Panel on Home Affairs, Culture and Sports</u></p> <p>During the policy briefing by the Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs on the 2023 Policy Address, members expressed concerns about the difficulties faced by Hong Kong young people in implementing their business start-up plans in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (“GBA”) due to the outbreak of the epidemic in the past few years. Members enquired about the possibility of extending the term of youth entrepreneurship projects implemented under the Funding Scheme for Youth Entrepreneurship in GBA to facilitate more young people to start their businesses in GBA following the resumption of normalcy. The Administration responded that it had received applications for extension of certain projects, and some</p>

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		<p>applications had been approved upon review.</p> <p>Members further suggested that apart from providing one-stop information, the Alliance of Hong Kong Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases in the GBA (“the Alliance”) should assist young entrepreneurs in establishing their businesses in GBA. The Administration advised that the Alliance would pool the resources of its members to provide support to young entrepreneurs, including assisting them in developing their interpersonal and business networks and so on.</p> <p><u>Panel on Commerce, Industry, Innovation and Technology</u></p> <p>At the meeting on 18 April 2023, the Panel on Commerce, Industry, Innovation and Technology discussed the Government’s measures to support Hong Kong enterprises to develop the Mainland domestic sales market. Members expressed concern that Hong Kong enterprises still faced certain restrictions in various aspects in entering the Mainland market, and suggested the Administration strive to introduce more liberalization measures favourable to Hong Kong enterprises under the framework of the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership</p>

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		<p>Arrangement. Members also suggested the Administration explore with Mainland authorities initiatives to further lower market access thresholds or expand the scope of business operation for Hong Kong enterprises in the Mainland cities of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area in the form of early and pilot implementation, assist Hong Kong enterprises in accessing cross-boundary financial services and related information, and facilitate the provision of targeted support to Hong Kong enterprises in different sectors.</p> <p>At the meeting on 27 June 2023, the Panel discussed the Administration's measures to support and assist enterprises in Hong Kong. Members expressed concern that it was difficult for local enterprises to obtain export credit insurance when expanding in the Mainland domestic sales market, and urged the Hong Kong Export Credit Insurance Corporation to provide more export credit insurance products targeting the domestic sales market.</p>
(12)	<p><u>29 March 2023</u></p> <p><b>Comprehensively promoting the development of hydrogen energy industry in Hong Kong</b></p> <p>That, to tie in with the national goals of achieving carbon</p>	<p><u>Panel on Environmental Affairs</u></p> <p>During the briefing by the Administration on the key environmental measures in the Chief Executive's 2023 Policy Address at the meeting of the</p>

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	<p>emission peak and carbon neutrality set out in the ‘14th Five-Year’ Development Plan for Renewable Energy, and to achieve the target of carbon neutrality before 2050 put forward in the Hong Kong’s Climate Action Plan 2050, Hong Kong must promote the high-quality development of renewable energy industry; in particular, hydrogen energy, with its advantages of high energy density and zero carbon emissions, has become an important strategic decision for various countries to expedite the transformation and upgrading of energy sources and nurture new economic growth spots; the country published the Medium and Long-Term Plan for the Development of Hydrogen Energy Industry (2021-2035) in 2022, and Singapore has also recently launched Singapore’s National Hydrogen Strategy; to tie in with the development trend of the hydrogen energy industry, this Council proposes that the Government should:</p> <p>(1) launch systematic studies on areas surrounding the production, storage, utilization, etc. of hydrogen energy, with a view to formulating a development plan for the hydrogen energy industry in Hong Kong; and at the same time commence a study on enacting relevant legislation;</p> <p>(2) discuss with other cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area</p>	<p>Panel on Environmental Affairs on 30 October 2023, Members expressed support for developing hydrogen applications in Hong Kong, and requested the Administration to promote innovations in hydrogen technologies and collaborate with other Mainland cities in the Greater Bay Area (“GBA”) to achieve complementarity of advantages in this regard. The Administration should also assist enterprises in setting up hydrogen energy businesses in Hong Kong.</p> <p>At the meeting on 15 December 2023, the Administration briefed the Panel on the strategies for promoting the conversion of petrol filling stations (“PFSs”) into quick charging stations (“QCSs”). Members generally expressed support for converting PFSs into QCSs and suggested the Administration consider allowing multiple use of PFS sites, including the provision of hydrogen refuelling service.</p> <p>From 7 to 9 August 2023, the Panel conducted a duty visit jointly with government officials from the Environment and Ecology Bureau to three cities in GBA, namely Guangzhou, Foshan and Shenzhen, to obtain first-hand information about the latest developments of these cities in areas including adoption of hydrogen transport. On 12</p>



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	<p>on the joint research, development and promotion of hydrogen energy industry development projects, and import hydrogen energy from the Mainland;</p> <p>(3) pay focused attention to the certification and rating of hydrogen energy, and carry out the certification and grading based on the production process of hydrogen energy, and issue the corresponding carbon index certification; and</p> <p>(4) actively promote the inclusion of hydrogen energy into Hong Kong's carbon emissions trading market, and further develop carbon trading and carbon finance;</p> <p>(5) formulate a policy for the hydrogen energy industry in Hong Kong; and</p> <p>(6) study the establishment of a set of internationally recognized certification and grading based on the production process of hydrogen energy;</p> <p>(7) formulate standards and norms for the hydrogen energy industry, including strengthening the safety management of such areas as the production, storage and transportation, as well as utilization of hydrogen energy, and promote the training of hydrogen energy professionals; and</p>	<p>December 2023, the Panel and the Panel on Transport conducted a joint visit to the Citybus Hydrogen Refuelling Station and its hydrogen bus. On these occasions, Members requested the Administration to, among others, expedite the development of a legal framework for the production, storage, transportation and application of hydrogen energy, and make early preparation with a view to enabling a stable supply of hydrogen energy while enhancing the cost-effectiveness of hydrogen energy applications.</p> <p><u>Panel on Financial Affairs</u></p> <p>The Panel on Financial Affairs has not discussed related issues after the passage of the motion.</p>

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	<p>(8) promote the use of hydrogen fuel cell e-buses and medium and heavy vehicles, study and plan for the construction of hydrogen refilling networks, and install hydrogen refilling facilities at existing petrol filling stations; and</p> <p>(9) make use of the new development areas such as the Northern Metropolis and the Lok Ma Chau Loop as a ‘springboard’ to introduce a quality hydrogen energy industry, so as to promote Hong Kong as a demonstration base for the development of hydrogen energy in the country and assist the hydrogen energy industry in going global.</p> <p><i>(The progress report provided by the Administration was circulated to Members under LC Paper No. CB(3)436/2023 dated 30 May 2023.)</i></p>	
(13)	<p><u>29 March 2023</u></p> <p><b>Fully implementing policies for attracting enterprises and investment</b></p> <p>That, as Hong Kong has entered a new phase of advancing from stability to prosperity, to embrace and implement the spirit of the 20th National Congress and respond to the important policies for attracting enterprises and investment proposed at the ‘Two sessions’ of</p>	<p><u>Panel on Commerce, Industry, Innovation and Technology</u></p> <p>At the meeting on 17 October 2023, the Panel on Commerce, Industry, Innovation and Technology received a briefing by the Administration on the work of Invest Hong Kong. Members suggested that the Administration should step up efforts to attract enterprises from emerging markets (e.g. the Belt and Road countries) to set</p>

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	<p>the country, the current-term SAR Government has set up the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises and the Dedicated Teams for Attracting Businesses and Talents, which are tasked with attracting world-class and high-potential strategic enterprises, particularly those from industries of strategic importance, such as life and health technology, artificial intelligence and data science, financial technology, and advanced manufacturing and new energy technology, to establish a presence in Hong Kong; in this connection, this Council urges the SAR Government to instruct and coordinate all policy bureaux and departments to actively participate in the work of attracting enterprises and investment, and avoid fragmented administration, so as to fully implement policies for attracting enterprises and investment, and launch special facilitation measures covering aspects such as land, tax, financing and education, thereby strengthening the impetus for growth and long-term competitiveness of Hong Kong's industries; specific policies are as follows:</p> <p>(1) launching a 'special policy package' for attracting enterprises and investment to bring in strategic enterprises and talents, and exploring support measures to facilitate flow of scientific research resources, capital, immigration, etc., thereby strengthening the advantages of local</p>	<p>up businesses in Hong Kong. Members also suggested the Administration consider attracting enterprises of high value-added potential apart from the four industries of strategic importance to Hong Kong.</p> <p>At the policy briefing cum meeting on 21 November 2023, the Panel was briefed by the Administration on the proposed re-structuring of the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises ("OASES"). Members supported the establishment proposal and enquired about the duties of OASES, as well as how the work on attracting enterprises and investment would be further taken forward.</p> <p><u>Panel on Economic Development</u></p> <p>No follow-up action by the Panel on Economic Development.</p> <p><u>Panel on Financial Affairs</u></p> <p>The Panel on Financial Affairs discussed with the Administration the details and progress of the work of the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises ("OASES") in attracting enterprises and investments during the briefing by the Financial Secretary on Hong Kong's latest overall economic situation on 5 June 2023. Members expressed</p>

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	<p>innovation and technology ('I&amp;T') industries;</p> <p>(2) coordinating and planning long-term policies for talent development, and nurturing and retaining talents in the four directions of 'selection, retention, cultivation and deployment', thereby achieving the dual development of 'nurturing local talents and attracting talents from abroad', so as to address the structural problems in nurturing talents for local I&amp;T industries; and</p> <p>(3) leveraging Hong Kong's advantages as an international financial centre to build an international I&amp;T hub and promote a 'dual circulation' between the financial centre and the I&amp;T hub;</p> <p>this Council also urges the SAR Government to, while attracting strategic enterprises from the Mainland and overseas, take into account supporting the development of local micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises and preserve room for their survival, and properly divide the responsibilities with the various cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area in order to make concerted efforts to promote the flow of people, goods, capital and information, thus avoiding vicious competition among them.</p>	<p>concern on whether and how OASES' initiatives to attract enterprises and investments could create more job opportunities for the research and development industry and the middle and senior management levels in Hong Kong. Members suggested that the Administration should provide more facilitation and support measures for OASES so that the latter could more effectively attract enterprises to set up in Hong Kong.</p> <p><u>Panel on Manpower</u></p> <p>When the Panel on Manpower received a briefing by the Secretary for Labour and Welfare on the major policy initiatives pertaining to the labour and manpower portfolio in the Chief Executive's 2023 Policy Address at its meeting on 21 November 2023, some members suggested that the Administration should review the criteria adopted for compiling the list of eligible universities under the Top Talent Pass Scheme ("TTPS"), so as to cover certain universities with outstanding performance in specific fields or areas. There was also a suggestion that the Administration should introduce more support measures to help incoming talents adapt to their new life, including providing assistance for their children to study in Hong Kong. The</p>

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	<p><i>(The progress report provided by the Administration was circulated to Members under LC Paper No. CB(3)601/2023 dated 4 July 2023.)</i></p>	<p>Administration advised that it would closely monitor the implementation of TTPS and consider expanding the list of eligible universities in a timely manner to cover more top-notch institutions. In addition, Hong Kong Talent Engage, established in late October 2023, would actively expand its network of working partners to provide incoming talents with appropriate support in various areas such as employment and children’s education, so as to enable them to adapt and integrate into Hong Kong as soon as possible.</p>
(14)	<p><u>19 April 2023</u></p> <p><b>Enhancing the performance of public transport services</b></p> <p>That since Hong Kong has resumed normalcy in full and normal travel with the Mainland has fully resumed, the patronage of various modes of public transport has increased significantly, and the performance of public transport services such as railway, buses, minibuses and taxis has drawn much attention from all sectors of society; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to reform the regulatory system for public transport services and enhance service standards through measures including:</p> <p>(1) formulating afresh the service indicators;</p>	<p><u>Panel on Transport</u></p> <p>The Panel on Transport generally supported the new MTR Fare Adjustment Mechanism (“FAM”), which linked the calculation of the Productivity Factor (“PF”) in the FAM formula to the Hong Kong Property Development profit of the MTR Corporation Limited (“MTRCL”). Members called on the Administration and MTRCL to consider raising the cap on the PF value or introducing a mechanism to impose a cap on fare adjustments so that the fare increase would be frozen when MTRCL’s profit reached a certain level, as well as to cancel all the unrecouped fare increase rates to ride out tough times together with the general public.</p>

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	<p>(2) improving the incident reporting and information dissemination mechanisms to enhance the public’s right to know, and to effectively monitor and enhance the performance of public transport services; and</p> <p>(3) promoting the integration of Hong Kong’s railway system with that of the Mainland to implement ‘metroization’ of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link as expeditiously as possible, so as to achieve the goal of ‘one-hour living circle’ in the Greater Bay Area;</p> <p>(4) reviewing the fare adjustment mechanisms; and</p> <p>(5) ensuring that public transport operators continue to operate in a financially viable manner.</p> <p><i>(The progress report provided by the Administration was circulated to Members under LC Paper No. CB(3)642/2023 dated 12 July 2023.)</i></p>	<p>Members were concerned about the financial viability of public light buses and urged the Administration to draw up effective measures to help sustain their operations. There was a suggestion to establish a “fare stabilization fund” using the dividends received from MTRC to subsidize operations of other public transport services.</p> <p>Noting that the Administration would construct a new generation of transport interchange hubs (“TIHs”) in new development areas and at strategic locations, Members urged the Administration to improve existing TIH facilities and extend new TIHs to other suitable sites in Hong Kong as far as possible for enhancing the provision of passenger-oriented services.</p> <p><u>Subcommittee on Matters Relating to Railways</u></p> <p>Following two train incidents in late 2022, the Subcommittee on Matters Relating to Railways was briefed by the Administration and MTRCL on the comprehensive review of the latter’s railway asset management and maintenance regime. Enquiries were raised by members on the scope of trackside assets requiring registration and how their registration would prevent recurrence of similar incidents.</p>

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		<p>Members also suggested that for safety's sake, if there was insufficient time for maintenance, MTRCL should consider shortening the train operation hours to carry out relevant maintenance instead of issuing a Release of Concession to allow the asset to be put in service prior to completion of the overdue maintenance. They also enquired about MTRCL's plans to extend the "golden two-hour" maintenance window, any measures taken to address the manpower situation, and whether the Administration had put in place an accountability system for the MTRCL management and whether it would adjust the bonus payable to them by the MTRCL Board of Directors to reflect their share of responsibility in the railway incidents.</p> <p>A Bills Committee was set up to study the Road Traffic Legislation (Enhancing Personalized Point-to-point Transport Services) (Amendment) Bill 2023 and Taxi-Driver Offence Points Bill, which were introduced by the Administration into the Legislative Council on 12 July 2023. The two Bills sought to enhance the overall quality of personalized point-to-point transport services and promote the healthy development of the taxi industry in the long run. In the course of scrutiny, members have expressed support to the</p>

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		<p>bills and also views on the implementation of the proposed taxi fleet regime. Some members considered that the maximum imprisonment term for the use of motor vehicles for illegal carriage of passengers for hire or reward should be increased in order to further enhance the deterrent effect of the penalties. Members have raised no objection to increasing the maximum passenger seating capacity of taxis from five to six and introducing a two-tier penalty system for certain taxi-driver-related offences. Furthermore, a few members have expressed serious concerns about the effectiveness and enforcement of the taxi-driver-offence points system, as well as its impact on the taxi trade. The two Bills were passed on 13 and 14 December 2023 respectively.</p>
(15)	<p><u>19 April 2023</u></p> <p><b>Expediting the importation of manpower to replenish Hong Kong's labour force</b></p> <p>That human resources are the key to success in promoting high-quality economic and social development; owing to reasons such as population ageing and emigration of Hong Kong residents, the labour force in Hong Kong has been shrinking continuously, and various industries are facing the problems of manpower shortage and recruitment difficulties; this Council urges that, apart from actively training local</p>	<p><u>Panel on Manpower</u></p> <p>At its meeting on 20 June 2023, the Panel on Manpower discussed the updated Talent List and the Administration's new measures on importation of labour. Concerns were raised as to how the Administration would attract and retain local workers, and how it would prevent abuse of the talent admission measures. The Administration stressed that the Government was always committed to assisting local workers in securing employment and enhancing</p>



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	<p>talents and attracting outside talents, the Government should expeditiously import the required manpower for various industries and occupations from other places, and promote the flow of human resources within the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area ('GBA'), including launching a GBA Manpower Importation Scheme and introducing a Visa for Digital-related Employment exclusively for technology enterprises to allow the residents of GBA Mainland cities who have been granted visas for employment in Hong Kong to travel between their work location in Hong Kong and place of residence in GBA in the same day, with a view to comprehensively replenishing the labour force in Hong Kong; in addition, the Government should conduct discussions with the Mainland authorities on further expanding the scope of mutual recognition of professional qualifications within GBA to promote the importation of labour force, thereby meeting the social and economic development needs of Hong Kong; meanwhile, the Government should expeditiously complete the manpower projections for various industries and occupations and draw up a labour shortage list based on the projection findings, and improve the vetting and approval mechanism for the importation of foreign labour; the Government should also, on the premise of giving priority to protecting the employment of local employees, work with</p>	<p>training for them. In processing each visa application, the Immigration Department would critically examine whether the applicant met the specific eligibility criteria under the admission scheme concerned and the normal immigration requirements.</p> <p>At the Panel meeting on 21 November 2023, the Secretary for Labour and Welfare gave a briefing on the major policy initiatives pertaining to the labour and manpower portfolio in the Chief Executive's 2023 Policy Address. Members suggested that the Administration should strengthen the protection of the employment rights and benefits of imported workers. The Administration advised that it would adopt a multi-pronged strategy to protect the employment rights and benefits of imported workers, including requiring employers to arrange for imported workers to, within eight weeks of their arrival in Hong Kong, attend briefings organized by the relevant bureaux/departments to facilitate their understanding of their employment rights and benefits, and pay wages to imported workers by means of bank autopay. In addition, administrative sanctions would be imposed on employers who had breached the relevant requirements of the labour importation schemes, the</p>

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	<p>various sectors to conduct more detailed and thorough surveys on a regular basis to understand the labour demand and manpower shortage of various trades and industries in Hong Kong, with a view to formulating quotas on the importation of foreign labour for various industries in a more targeted manner and alleviating difficulties in the recruitment and employment of labour, thereby strengthening impetus for the growth of Hong Kong; this Council also urges the Government to:</p> <p>(1) establish an interdepartmental liaison group comprising representatives of the Labour and Welfare Bureau, the Labour Department, etc. to vet and approve applications from Hong Kong enterprises for importing manpower from GBA and applications from residents of GBA Mainland cities for working in Hong Kong;</p> <p>(2) hold job fairs in various GBA cities regularly to attract manpower of various industries in GBA to come to Hong Kong for employment;</p> <p>(3) provide one-stop services, including job seeking, acceptance of employment offer, legislative protection and tax return filing, for residents of GBA Mainland cities working in Hong Kong; and</p>	<p>Standard Employment Contract, etc.</p> <p>At the same meeting, some members opined that the Administration should review afresh the requirement for workers imported under the Enhanced Supplementary Labour Scheme to work in specific workplaces, with a view to allowing chain stores to flexibly deploy their manpower having regard to their operational needs. The Administration advised that it was exploring the feasibility of flexibly implementing the relevant requirement in the light of the actual circumstances of employers.</p>

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	<p>(4) set up express channels at various sea and land boundary control points in Hong Kong to reduce the immigration clearance time for residents of GBA Mainland cities working in Hong Kong, so that they can travel between the Mainland and Hong Kong more conveniently.</p> <p><i>(The progress report provided by the Administration was circulated to Members under LC Paper No. CB(3)613/2023 dated 5 July 2023.)</i></p>	
(16)	<p><u>10 May 2023</u></p> <p><b>Comprehensively promoting the upgrading and transformation of industries to foster the diversification of financial and economic development</b></p> <p>That this year marks the beginning of the full implementation of the spirit of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, and early in the year, at the ‘two sessions’ of the country, President XI Jinping emphasized the need to promote high-quality development and, by enhancing the capacity for scientific and technological innovation, promoting the upgrading and transformation of industries and constantly increasing the economic strength, make headway to complete building China into a great modern socialist country in all respects; the National 14th Five-Year Plan also advocates</p>	<p><u>Panel on Financial Affairs</u></p> <p>During the 2023 session, the Panel on Financial Affairs deliberated on a number of issues relating to the development and diversification of Hong Kong’s financial services industry when members discussed the policy initiatives relating to financial services in the Chief Executive’s 2023 Policy Address, and received briefings on Hong Kong’s overall economic development and the work of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority. Such issues include policy support from the Central Authorities to solidify Hong Kong’s status as an international financial centre, measures to enhance the liquidity and competitiveness of the stock market, initiatives to attract enterprises and</p>

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	<p>enhancing Hong Kong’s status as an international financial centre; to actively dovetail with national development strategies, for which it is imperative for Hong Kong to implement the principle of ‘one country, two systems’, leverage its advantage of ‘enjoying the strong support of the motherland and being closely connected to the world’ and better integrate into the overall development of the country, this Council urges the SAR Government to consider the following proposals:</p> <p>(1) fostering the diversified development of the financial industry: to actively develop financial services areas such as securities, commodity futures, precious metals, corporate financing, funds, virtual assets and innovation fields, and further increase the variety of financial products and services; and to enable foreign-funded, Mainland-funded and local enterprises to develop business together, and give play to the potential of small and medium enterprises;</p> <p>(2) expediting the development of green finance: to increase green bonds, green funds, as well as investment products related to environmental, social and governance (‘ESG’), and support the investment, financing and certification of green projects in the country and the</p>	<p>investments, and the development and regulation of Fintech. Members urged the Administration to explore ways to improve Hong Kong’s business environment for, among others, the financial, insurance and information technology sectors. In this regard, members suggested reviewing various types of international regulatory requirements, as well as obsolete local laws and regulations, with a view to lowering the compliance cost of the sectors concerned.</p> <p>The Administration further briefed the Panel at the meeting on 5 June 2023 on the latest development and measures of Fintech and other innovations for financial services in Hong Kong, as well as the progress on the regulation of virtual assets (“VA”). Members urged the Administration to step up publicity and promotion on the licensing regime for VA service providers and to educate the public to make good use of Fintech in investment.</p> <p><u>Panel on Commerce, Industry, Innovation and Technology</u></p> <p>At the meeting on 17 October 2023, the Panel on Commerce, Industry, Innovation and Technology was briefed by the Administration on the annual progress of the five Research and Development Centres (“R&amp;D Centres”) under the</p>

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	<p>Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area ('GBA') to assist the country in realizing green economy transformation;</p> <p>(3) driving the commercialization and industrialization of research and development ('R&amp;D') results: to encourage the industries to utilize R&amp;D products and services, so as to enhance the use cases of innovation and technology in various trades and industries and promote the upgrading and transformation of different industries;</p> <p>(4) formulating a blueprint for the development of strategic emerging industries: to set a clear development direction and long-term planning for emerging industries, and provide related support in various aspects such as tax concessions, dedicated subsidy, talent training and listing for financing, so as to promote the diversified development of the economy; and</p> <p>(5) enhancing cooperation with the Mainland Government to foster the development of financial technologies ('Fintech') in GBA, while taking forward more early and pilot financial liberalization and innovation schemes, thereby</p>	<p>purview of the Innovation and Technology Commission. Members urged the R&amp;D Centres to step up efforts to facilitate technology transfer and commercialization of R&amp;D outcomes, and promote the R&amp;D Centres' research outcomes to the industry.</p> <p>During the policy briefing by the Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry on the 2023 Policy Address, members were advised that to promote the downstream development of new industrialization, the Administration would provide more support to enterprises in the fields of life and health technologies, artificial intelligence and data science, advanced manufacturing and new energy technologies. These included the setting up of a \$10 billion New Industrialisation Acceleration Scheme ("NIAS"), which provided funding support on a matching basis for these enterprises to set up new production facilities. Members welcomed the establishment of NIAS, and urged the Administration to streamline the application procedures and shorten the approval time as far as possible.</p> <p><u>Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting</u></p> <p>At the meeting on 12 June 2023, the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting</p>

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	<p>proactively expanding the overseas markets for Fintech products and services.</p> <p><i>(The progress report provided by the Administration was circulated to Members under LC Paper No. CB(3)647/2023 dated 18 July 2023.)</i></p>	<p>discussed the funding applications for the implementation of the Incubation Programme for Smart Living Start-ups and the Digital Transformation Support Pilot Programme (“the Pilot Programme”). Members were of the view that the Administration should, apart from assisting enterprises in implementing testing of smart living solutions at the community level to enhance their usefulness, help enterprises explore overseas markets. Members also commented that when providing digital technology solutions to small and medium enterprises (“SMEs”) under the Pilot Programme, the Administration should give priority to recommending locally researched and developed solutions for selection by SMEs. Given that environmental protection, social responsibility and corporate governance were the investment concepts and corporate evaluation criteria of significant concern, members took the view that Cyberport should adopt these concepts in nurturing enterprises.</p> <p><u>Subcommittee on Matters Relating to the Promotion of New Industrialization</u></p> <p>At the meeting on 11 July 2023, the Subcommittee on Matters Relating to the Promotion of New Industrialization was</p>

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		<p>briefed by the Administration on the measures to support new industrialization and promote industry development in Hong Kong. Members called on the Administration to proactively promote the development of microelectronics and new energy vehicles industries, including formulating relevant policies and facilitation measures to foster the development of new technology industries. Members also suggested that the Administration should set out work targets for Hong Kong's overall innovation and technology ("I&amp;T") industry development, enhance publicity on the importance of I&amp;T to Hong Kong's economic development, and raise public acceptance of new technology industries.</p>
(17)	<p><u>10 May 2023</u></p> <p><b>Promoting the comprehensive development of women in Hong Kong</b></p> <p>That, along with the changes of time, the traditional concept of 'male supremacy over female' in the past has become obsolete long ago; it is pointed out in the report to the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China that under the improved social security system, the country will remain committed to the fundamental national policy of gender equality and protect the lawful rights and interests of women and children;</p>	<p><u>Panel on Home Affairs, Culture and Sports</u></p> <p>During the policy briefing by the Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs on the 2023 Policy Address, members noted that following the allocation of additional funding to establish the Women Empowerment Fund in 2022, the Chief Executive announced in the 2023 Policy Address to set up under the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau ("HYAB") a dedicated Women Affairs Team and designate the post of Commissioner for Women Affairs on 1 April 2024 to steer</p>

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	<p>women play a unique role in family and society, but Hong Kong lacks a holistic view of promoting the comprehensive development of women, and its female labour force participation rate has also been lagging behind those of many countries and regions; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to coordinate policy bureaux to implement the work straddling different policy areas, create a designated post of Commissioner for Women Affairs with specific responsibilities of formulating and implementing policies on women affairs, increase resources to promote the high-quality development of Hong Kong women in family, workplace and society, and strengthen employment support for women, including increasing child care services and promoting family-friendly employment policies, in order to further unleash potential women labour force and enable women from different strata to give full play to their strengths; this Council also urges the Government to set quantifiable performance indicators for policies related to women, such as increasing the employment and fertility rates of women in Hong Kong, reducing the number of cases of violence against women each year, and increasing the number of women receiving breast cancer risk assessment each year.</p> <p><i>(The progress report provided by the Administration was circulated to Members under LC Paper No. CB(3)641/2023 dated 12 July 2023.)</i></p>	<p>work related to women’s affairs and launch the following key initiatives in the second half of 2024: (a) launching a one-stop family and women information portal to pool together information on family education, marriage and women’s health, etc. and share legal information relating to family and women affairs; (b) organizing the first Family and Women Development Summit; and (c) launching, through Community Care Fund, a maintenance mediation pilot scheme to subsidize non-governmental organizations in providing mediation services on maintenance, so as to assist the parties concerned, including women who were victims of maintenance arrears.</p> <p><u>Panel on Welfare Services</u></p> <p>When the Panel on Welfare Services was briefed on the policy initiatives by the Administration at the Policy briefing-cum-meeting on 13 November 2023, some Members expressed concern about the significant disparity in funding between the Women Empowerment Fund and the Youth Development Fund. Recognizing the diverse roles of women, Members called on the Administration to allocate more resources to support women development.</p>



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		<p data-bbox="922 230 1302 264"><u>Panel on Health Services</u></p> <p data-bbox="922 315 1401 909">When the Panel on Health Services discussed issues relating to chronic diseases care under the Primary Healthcare Blueprint, some members made a number of suggestions to the Administration, which included, among others, expanding the Breast Cancer Screening Pilot Programme to provide 3D mammography screening for women aged over 40; and providing osteoporosis screening services for women.</p> <p data-bbox="922 958 1225 992"><u>Panel on Manpower</u></p> <p data-bbox="922 1043 1401 1888">At the meeting of the Panel on Manpower on 20 June 2023, during the discussion on the Administration's new measures on importation of labour, members expressed concern about the Administration's specific measures to assist women in joining the labour market. The Administration advised that it would facilitate women's participation in the workforce through various measures, such as enhancing retraining and implementing the Employment Programme for the Elderly and Middle-aged as well as the School-based After School Care Service Scheme.</p> <p data-bbox="922 1939 1401 2145">At its meeting on 21 November 2023, the Panel received a briefing by the Administration on the fertility promotion initiatives in the Chief</p>

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		<p>Executive's 2023 Policy Address. Members generally welcomed the Administration's introduction of a series of initiatives covering a cash bonus, housing, support for assisted reproductive services, support for working families in childbearing, etc. to encourage childbirth, but they were concerned about the effectiveness of the various initiatives in raising the fertility rate in Hong Kong as envisaged by the Administration. The Administration advised that the array of fertility promotion initiatives put forward in the Policy Address sought to create a conducive environment for childbearing, so as to reverse the low level of the local birth rate and provide the manpower required for long-term economic development. The Administration had not set any key performance indicator for such initiatives, but would adjust the relevant arrangements in a timely manner having regard to the effectiveness of the various initiatives.</p>
(18)	<p><u>17 May 2023</u></p> <p><b>Uniting the executive authorities and the legislature to forge ahead with the development of the Greater Bay Area</b></p> <p>That Chief Executive John LEE led officials of the SAR Government and Members of the Legislative Council to visit</p>	<p><u>Panel on Constitutional Affairs</u></p> <p>The Panel on Constitutional Affairs discussed the policy measures on the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area ("GBA") of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau ("CMAB") in the 2023 Policy Address on 18 December 2023.</p>

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	<p>four Mainland cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area ('GBA') and achieved fruitful results; this visit marks the first joint visit by the executive authorities and the legislature under the improved electoral system and the implementation of the principle of 'patriots administering Hong Kong' and particularly carries historical significance; through visiting facilities, enterprises, projects, etc. in innovation and technology, environmental protection, youth development, arts and culture, sports, and so on, officials and Members further understand and grasp the latest developments of GBA, reflecting that Hong Kong attaches importance to and actively promotes its liaison, exchanges and integration within GBA cities; under the country's new pattern of development, the development of GBA has become a key national development strategy, and this Council urges the Government to continuously implement the principle of 'one country, two systems', actively unite the executive authorities and the legislature to achieve harmonious interactions, and through improving governance, creating strong impetus for growth, addressing people's concerns and difficulties in daily life, and persistently deepening the exchanges and cooperation within GBA cities, give play to Hong Kong's greatest contributions and strengths, with a view to fully integrating into the overall development of the country, supporting the</p>	<p>Members called on HKSARG to take proactive measures to support Hong Kong residents and enterprises to pursue development in the Mainland cities of GBA, as well as to assist Mainland cities of GBA in tapping into international markets, thereby fully leveraging Hong Kong's dual roles in "going global and attracting foreign investment".</p> <p>The Administration advised that CMAB had introduced a number of policy measures to take forward the development of GBA:</p> <p>(a) the GBA Development Office of CMAB continued to make use of diversified and multi-media channels, including thematic website, social media platforms, television and radio programmes, exhibitions as well as the "GBA Information Station" digital information platform, to disseminate more information about the development of GBA to local residents and enterprises; and</p> <p>(b) setting up the GBA Development Promotion Centre in April 2023 to further enhance HKSARG's publicity and promotional efforts in the Mainland cities of GBA,</p>

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	<p>country's development into a leading country in science and technology, boosting the high-quality development of GBA, and promoting national rejuvenation through a Chinese path to modernization.</p> <p><i>(The progress report provided by the Administration was circulated to Members under LC Paper No. CB(3)655/2023 dated 26 July 2023.)</i></p>	<p>as well as to provide support for Hong Kong residents and enterprises there.</p> <p><u>Panel on Home Affairs, Culture and Sports</u></p> <p>When the Panel on Home Affairs, Culture and Sports discussed "Sports policy and promoting development of sports in Hong Kong" on 12 June 2023, members opined that deepening the cooperation and exchange in sports with the Mainland cities of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area ("GBA") would help further promote sports development in Hong Kong. In this connection, members suggested that more cross-boundary competition events, such as cycling competitions across the Hong Kong – Zhuhai – Macao Bridge and basketball invitation matches, should be organized.</p> <p>On promoting cultural exchange, the Panel discussed the Administration's measures to promote cultural exchanges between Hong Kong and the Mainland as well as the rest of the world, including the Administration's efforts to drive arts and cultural collaboration within GBA. Members noted that the Administration had introduced various initiatives in this area, which included supporting</p>

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		<p>Hong Kong arts groups and arts practitioners to stage performances and hold exhibitions outside Hong Kong, as well as organizing “Hong Kong Week” activities in the Mainland and overseas cities.</p> <p>Members suggested that the Administration should collaborate with the Mainland cities of GBA to provide arts and cultural exchange and internship opportunities there for Hong Kong young people/arts groups/arts practitioners. The Administration advised that it would continue to take forward the relevant work.</p> <p>The Panel also discussed the latest progress of the various youth internship and exchange programmes outside Hong Kong organized by the Government. Members emphasized the need for appropriate follow-up actions, e.g. organizing sharing sessions and establishing a youth network for long-term engagement with the participants of the internship and exchange programmes.</p> <p><u>Panel on Commerce, Industry, Innovation and Technology</u></p> <p>The Panel on Commerce, Industry, Innovation and Technology has not discussed related issues after passage of the motion.</p>

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		<p data-bbox="922 230 1398 309"><u>Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting</u></p> <p data-bbox="922 360 1398 1675">During the policy briefing by the Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry on the 2023 Policy Address, members suggested that the Administration should develop a headquarters economy in the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park, with the goal of contributing greater economic benefits to Hong Kong. On cross-boundary data flow, members noted the Administration’s plan to work with the Mainland to explore the cross-boundary flow of Mainland data to the Lok Ma Chau Loop (“the Loop”) to foster the Loop’s integrated development, and members were of the view that the Administration should, subject to compliance with relevant laws and regulations, explore the flow of data to locations outside the Loop to expedite the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area economy.</p> <p data-bbox="922 1727 1398 1805"><u>Panel on Environmental Affairs</u></p> <p data-bbox="922 1856 1398 2145">During the briefing by the Administration on the key environmental measures in the Chief Executive’s 2023 Policy Address at the meeting of the Panel on Environmental Affairs on 30 October 2023,</p>

<b>No.</b>	<b>Date of Council meeting, and subject and wording of motion</b>	<b>Follow-up actions taken by relevant committees of the Council</b>
		<p>Members suggested that the Administration should promote innovations in hydrogen technologies in Hong Kong by, among others, cooperating with the Mainland cities in the Greater Bay Area (“GBA”) so as to achieve complementarity of advantages.</p> <p>From 7 to 9 August 2023, the Panel conducted a duty visit jointly with government officials from the Environment and Ecology Bureau to three cities in GBA, namely Guangzhou, Foshan and Shenzhen, to obtain first-hand information about the latest developments of these cities in areas including adoption of new energy transport, clean energy and renewable energy. Members suggested the Administration draw reference from the Mainland’s relevant technologies and experience, foster linkages and cooperation with other Mainland cities of GBA, and address environmental issues through collaborative governance and capacity sharing. In particular, the Administration should draw reference from the strategies of Foshan and other Mainland cities in promoting the application of hydrogen energy technologies, and strengthen exchanges and collaboration between Hong Kong and the Mainland in this regard.</p>

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(19)	<p data-bbox="309 228 512 264"><u>17 May 2023</u></p> <p data-bbox="309 315 847 479"><b>Improving the transport networks of the New Territories to cater for the development of the Northern Metropolis</b></p> <p data-bbox="309 530 858 2130">That according to information, the Northern Metropolis, which encompasses a number of areas in the New Territories including new towns in Yuen Long, Tin Shui Wai and Fanling/Sheung Shui, Ta Kwu Ling District, Sha Tau Kok District and their neighbouring rural areas, and covers from the west to the east the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Boundary Control Points (‘BCPs’) Economic Belt, as well as the deeper hinterlands, will be the most important area in Hong Kong that facilitates the development integration with Shenzhen and connection with the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (‘GBA’); however, the existing transport networks of the New Territories are not well-developed and some rural areas even lack road connections, which can hardly cater for the development of the Northern Metropolis, hindering Hong Kong from seizing the development opportunities in GBA; in this connection, this Council urges the SAR Government to improve the transport networks of the New Territories and actively expand rural road networks in order to implement the ‘infrastructure-led’ development concept, including extending the alignment of the Northern Metropolis Highway</p>	<p data-bbox="922 228 1398 353"><u>Subcommittee on Matters Relating to the Development of the Northern Metropolis</u></p> <p data-bbox="922 398 1401 1935">When discussing transport infrastructure projects relating to the Northern Metropolis as set out in the Hong Kong Major Transport Infrastructure Development Blueprint (“the Blueprint”) promulgated on 12 December 2023, members of the Subcommittee on Matters Relating to the Development of the Northern Metropolis urged the Administration to carefully assess the transport demand for east-west and north-south connectivity between the Northern Metropolis and other parts of Hong Kong arising from increases in population and economic activities in the region in the course of its development. Members requested the Administration to provide information on the estimated year of commencement and completion of each major transport infrastructure project, the estimated population and completion time of future housing projects in the Northern Metropolis, and the estimated number of job opportunities to be provided by development projects over the various stages of development in the Northern Metropolis.</p> <p data-bbox="922 1980 1267 2016"><u>Panel on Development</u></p> <p data-bbox="922 2060 1401 2130">During the discussion on the policy initiatives of the</p>



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	<p>to Ta Kwu Ling, Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai BCP and Sha Tau Kok BCP so that it will run through the entire Northern Metropolis from east to west, strengthen the transport connection between the Northern Metropolis and the Harbour Metropolis, and enhance the connectivity between Hong Kong and Shenzhen by providing a railway link connecting the seven land BCPs between Shenzhen and Hong Kong, thereby enabling Hong Kong to better integrate into the overall development of the country; this Council also urges the SAR Government to actively expand the railway network of the New Territories.</p> <p><i>(The progress report provided by the Administration was circulated to Members under LC Paper No. CB(3)654/2023 dated 25 July 2023.)</i></p>	<p>Development Bureau in the 2023 Policy Address by the Panel on Development, members expressed support for the adoption of an “industry-driven and infrastructure-led” approach as the key planning axle of the Northern Metropolis and urged the Administration to adhere to its “infrastructure-led” approach of planning and expedite the implementation of infrastructure projects in the Northern Metropolis.</p> <p>When the Panel discussed the Administration’s land use proposal of San Tin Technopole within the Northern Metropolis at its meeting on 23 May 2023, members were concerned that the construction of the proposed Northern Link Main Line and Spur Line lagged behind the schedule of the first population intake and business intake in the areas nearby; therefore they requested the Administration to expedite the works of these two railway lines with a view to completing the construction by 2030.</p> <p><u>Subcommittee on Matters Relating to Railways</u></p> <p>When the Subcommittee on Matters Relating to Railways was briefed on the latest development of Kwu Tung Station, members urged the Administration to commence the project expeditiously, so as to meet the transport needs of the Kwu Tung North New</p>

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		<p>Development Area. Noting that the projected population of Kwu Tung would be some 130,000 in 2026 to 2027, members urged the Administration to examine whether the East Rail Line had sufficient carrying capacity to carry passengers upon completion of Kwu Tung Station, and urged MTRCL to plan early to procure new trains for the East Rail Line and increase train frequency before it reached its capacity.</p> <p><u>Panel on Transport</u></p> <p>The Panel on Transport has always been urging for an improved transport networks of the New Territories. When the Panel was briefed on the Hong Kong Major Transport Infrastructure Development Blueprint (“Blueprint”), members generally supported the enhancements to the three railways and three major roads and the addition of two railways and one major road in the eastern part of the Northern Metropolis to enhance connectivity between the Northern Metropolis and the Harbour Metropolis.</p> <p>Members suggested examining the feasibility of commissioning the Northern Link in phases and extending the Northern Metropolis Highway to Hung Shui Kiu and Sha Tau Kok Port. Besides, in planning for the Hong Kong</p>

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		<p>Island West-Hung Shui Kiu Rail Link of the artificial islands in the Central Waters, the Administration should consider prioritizing the project implementation of the railway section from Hung Shui Kiu to Tuen Mun East-Sunny Bay and then connecting this section with the remaining portion after the completion of artificial islands works. Enquiries were also raised on the timetables and construction costs of the transport infrastructure projects outlined in the Blueprint, and whether the Administration had assessed the adequacy of fund and manpower resources to cope with the projects.</p>
(20)	<p><u>24 May 2023</u></p> <p><b>Stepping up the promotion of gerontechnology to enhance the quality of life of the silver-haired group and tackle population ageing</b></p> <p>That in the address made on 1 July, President XI Jinping has expressed his hope for the Hong Kong SAR Government to earnestly address people’s concerns and difficulties in daily life, including ‘having better care in their twilight years’; Hong Kong’s problem of an ageing population has become increasingly serious, and making good use of technologies can effectively upgrade the quality of elderly care services; in this connection, this Council urges the SAR Government to further promote the popularization of gerontechnology, make use of</p>	<p><u>Panel on Welfare Services</u></p> <p>At its meeting on 16 October 2023, the Panel on Welfare Services was briefed on the policies and facilitating measures to achieve ageing in place. Members recognized the potential of gerontechnology products in enabling ageing in place and proposed expanding the eligibility criteria for the Innovation and Technology Fund for Application in Elderly and Rehabilitation Care, the Community Care Service Voucher Scheme for the Elderly, and the service scope of the Health Care Voucher Scheme to benefit more elderly in need. Members also called for collaboration among the Social Welfare Department, the Hospital Authority and the</p>

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	<p>technologies such as big data, artificial intelligence infrastructure, robots and sensors, and make complementary arrangements in building designs and urban planning, so as to enhance the quality of life and self-care abilities of the silver-haired group and improve their social and mental health, thereby alleviating the burden of carers and building a society that cares for the elderly; this Council also urges the SAR Government to strengthen cooperation and collaboration with cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area ('GBA') to step up the promotion of gerontechnology and the development of related industries, so as to better support Hong Kong people to retire in GBA; this Council also urges the SAR Government to introduce the following measures to further encourage the elderly to make use of gerontechnology:</p> <p>(1) extending the scope of application of elderly health care vouchers ('HCVs') to allow the elderly to use HCVs to purchase gerontechnology products;</p> <p>(2) proactively implementing policies to support leading enterprises which develop elderly services and products, smart elderly care and elderly education, so as to promote the high-quality development of the elderly care industry in Hong Kong; and</p>	<p>District Services and Community Care Teams to effectively address the needs of the elderly persons by utilizing gerontechnology and enhancing the promotion of gerontechnology to service users and carers.</p> <p><u>Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting</u></p> <p>At the meeting on 10 July 2023, the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting was briefed by the Administration on the progress of its work on digital inclusion initiatives. Members commented that with an ageing population in Hong Kong, the Administration should be more proactive in promoting the use of the Internet and digital technologies among elderly people to improve their living. Members suggested that the Administration should engage the District Services and Community Care Teams, among others, to assist the elderly in learning how to use digital technologies to enhance their quality of life. Contents such as digital entertainment and commonly used Mainland mobile applications should be included in the technology training programmes for the elderly. Additionally, the elderly people should be encouraged to pursue self-directed learning of digital technologies. In particular, members expressed concern</p>

<b>No.</b>	<b>Date of Council meeting, and subject and wording of motion</b>	<b>Follow-up actions taken by relevant committees of the Council</b>
	<p>(3) establishing an ageing simulation centre to promote gerontechnology to the elderly through ageing-simulation experience, so as to cope with ageing and prevent disabilities;</p> <p>this Council also urges the SAR Government to:</p> <p>(4) install home safety monitoring systems for elderly singletons free of charge, such as monitoring systems for bed exit and fall detection, to ensure that elderly singletons can receive timely rescue and assistance in case of home accidents and avoid serious harm results from failure to rescue them in time;</p> <p>(5) provide training to staff of residential care homes for the elderly ('RCHEs') to enhance their capability in the application of gerontechnology; and establish a cross-RCHE technology sharing platform to facilitate collaboration and exchanges among RCHEs, thereby further supporting the application of gerontechnology in RCHEs;</p> <p>(6) promote, through the Innovation and Technology Fund, the research and development ('R&amp;D') of gerontechnology products by universities and different institutions, so as to enhance</p>	<p>about how hidden elderly people who were not users of the regular services of social welfare agencies, or elders with dementia or other special needs, could access outreach activities and training programmes.</p>

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	<p>the R&amp;D capability of Hong Kong's gerontechnology industry;</p> <p>(7) introduce gerontechnology vouchers under the Innovation and Technology Fund for Application in Elderly and Rehabilitation Care for which individuals can apply, so that the elderly can purchase suitable gerontechnology products for their use; and</p> <p>(8) allocate additional resources at the community level and invite local organizations to assist the Government in carrying out work on the popularization of information technology, so as to enable the elderly to build up digital confidence;</p> <p>this Council also urges the SAR Government to encourage the elderly to use technologies for self-health monitoring and advanced rehabilitation facilities such as exoskeleton, electrical wheelchairs to enhance their commuting convenience; at the same time, the Government should utilize networks to build friendly communities for the elderly to help each other, so as to improve information flow and promote the spirit of helping others and helping themselves, thereby enabling the silver-haired group to live with dignity in the communities with which they are familiar.</p> <p><i>(The progress report provided by the Administration was circulated</i></p>	

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	<i>to Members under LC Paper No. CB(3)656/2023 dated 28 July 2023.)</i>	
(21)	<p><u>24 May 2023</u></p> <p><b>Implementing cooperation with the Mainland in organ transplant</b></p> <p>That organ transplant is one of the important ways to save the lives of patients suffering from organ failure, and even the only option for those with end-stage heart, lung and liver failure; Hong Kong has advanced organ transplant technologies, but is short of donated organs available for transplant, taking the lives of many patients during the waiting period as they are not saved in time; expanding Hong Kong’s organ donation network to cover the whole country and including Hong Kong in the national unified matching system can increase the chance of successful organ matching and thus benefit patients; therefore, this Council urges the Government to expeditiously implement the legal framework of cooperation with the Mainland in organ transplant, and proactively explore the</p>	<p><u>Panel on Health Services</u></p> <p>To enhance the understanding of the operation of the systems and mechanisms relating to organ donation, allocation and transplantation in the Mainland, the Panel on Health Services sent a delegation to conduct a duty visit on 29 July 2023 to the Big Data Centre of National Health Commission for Human Tissue, Organ Transplant and Medicine in Guangzhou.</p> <p>The delegation noted that voluntary and unconditional donation as well as priority for local patients would be the principles of mutual assistance in organ transplant between the two places. The delegation also noted that Tsz-hei’s case<sup>1</sup> was specially coordinated and approved by various parties. At present, the Mainland’s Regulations on HIV/AIDS Prevention and Treatment still imposed restrictions on the</p>

<sup>1</sup> In December 2022, Tsz-hei, a four-month-old baby girl in Hong Kong, suffered from heart failure due to dilated cardiomyopathy and was urgently in need of a heart transplant, but regrettably, no suitable donor had been found in Hong Kong. The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (“HKSAR”) hence sought assistance from the Central Government. With a high-level command and coordination mechanism established swiftly between the Mainland and HKSAR, coupled with timely support and effective cooperation from relevant Mainland authorities, the approval of transfer of a cadaveric heart donated selflessly by a brain-dead child patient in the Mainland to Hong Kong was obtained within a very short period of time after confirming that there was no suitable recipient in the Mainland through the China’s Organ Transplant Response System. The organ was then promptly and successfully transported to Hong Kong for transplant. This unprecedented cross-boundary organ donation case was completed, saving the life of Tze-hei.

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	<p>technical aspects and relevant procedures relating to organ donation, matching, transportation and certification.</p> <p><i>(The progress report provided by the Administration was circulated to Members under LC Paper No. CB(3)670/2023 dated 15 August 2023.)</i></p>	<p>importation and exportation of human organs. Therefore, to set up a standing organ transplant mutual assistance mechanism between the two places, further improvements to the relevant laws and regulations were necessary. Given that there were a total of 1 116 unused donated organs in the Mainland in 2022, and over 2 600 patients with organ failure were currently awaiting organ transplant in Hong Kong, the delegation has urged the governments of the two places to set up the above mutual assistance mechanism as soon as possible in the hope that the mechanism would help avoid wastage of donated organs and benefit more patients with organ failure in Hong Kong.</p> <p>The delegation noted that the mechanism being considered by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (“the HKSAR Government”) would not affect the respective waiting lists of the two places, nor would it change the order of patients waiting for organs. The cross-border mechanism would only be activated when the organs of donors in Hong Kong or the Mainland could not be successfully matched under the respective systems of the two places. Nevertheless, the delegation was of the view that “one cannot make bricks without straw”. While China’s Organ Transplant Response</p>



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		<p>System was particularly crucial for the effective utilization of the cross-border mechanism, it seemed that Hong Kong's electronic health systems still could not be connected to the System. One of the fundamental problems that prevented access to the System was that medical data could not be shared across the border. In this regard, the delegation urged the HKSAR Government to step up efforts in connecting the relevant systems.</p> <p>“Promoting organ donation as well as establishing legal framework and procedures for cooperation with the Mainland in organ transplantation” is on the Panel's list of outstanding items for discussion.</p>
(22)	<p><u>31 May 2023</u></p> <p><b>Formulating a comprehensive population policy</b></p> <p>That Hong Kong's workforce has shrunk by more than 100 000 over the past two years, and the birth rate has even dropped to a 30-year low; the rapidly ageing population will not only have far-reaching implications for future economic and social development, but will also lead to an increase in the dependency ratio, thereby affecting the life planning and comprehensive development of young people; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to formulate a comprehensive population policy through high-level coordination and</p>	<p><u>Panel on Manpower</u></p> <p>At its meeting on 21 November 2023, the Panel on Manpower received a briefing by the Administration on the fertility promotion initiatives in the Chief Executive's 2023 Policy Address. Members generally welcomed the Administration's introduction of a series of initiatives covering a cash bonus, housing, support for assisted reproductive services, support for working families in childbearing, etc. to encourage childbirth. There was a suggestion that the Administration should take the lead in implementing more family-friendly employment</p>

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	<p>cross-departmental collaboration, which includes creating a social environment suitable for young people to form families in various areas such as marriage, childbearing, parenting, education and housing, as well as improving the policy on encouraging childbirth, including the provision of incentives such as cash or non-cash allowances to boost the fertility rate, while at the same time comprehensively planning for the development of industries, employment opportunities for the silver-haired group, labour demand, and elderly care measures with ‘ageing in place’ as the core, etc. in the ageing society of Hong Kong, so as to ensure the sustainable development of Hong Kong’s demographic structure; this Council also requests the Government to create a high-quality employment environment for young people and adults, promote a balance between work and family life, and improve the arrangements for maternity leave, paternity leave and child allowance, as well as increase services of child care, after-school care and day care centres for the elderly in order to fully unleash the workforce; this Council also requests the Government to adopt the following measures:</p> <p>(1) stepping up efforts to promote family-friendly policies in order to provide more support for dual-income parents, and enhancing child-rearing and child care services</p>	<p>practices (such as increasing paternity leave, providing infant care/child care leave, introducing flexitime, and providing child care facilities in suitable government office buildings) to motivate enterprises and different sectors of the community to work together to create a conducive environment for childbearing. The Administration advised that as a good employer, the Government had always endeavoured to provide a family-friendly working environment for its employees, and it would relay members’ suggestion to the Civil Service Bureau. Meanwhile, the Labour Department had launched the Good Employer Charter 2024 to step up efforts in encouraging employers of different trades and scales to adopt employee-oriented good human resource management measures and implement family-friendly employment practices, so that the employed could fulfil both their work and family responsibilities.</p> <p><u>Panel on Education</u></p> <p>The Panel on Education had followed up the progress on the promotion of vocational and professional education and training (“VPET”) and the implementation of life planning education at its meeting on 2 June 2023. Members called on the Administration to enhance the strategies of LPE and step</p>

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	<p>to encourage childbearing among young people;</p> <p>(2) improving the implementation details of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics) education, promoting artificial intelligence education, and enhancing vocational skills training, so that the development of young people can meet the development needs of society;</p> <p>(3) assessing the future talent demand in order to ‘compete for talents externally and retain talents internally’;</p> <p>(4) establishing a comprehensive career ladder for the elderly care sector so as to attract young people to join the sector, thereby alleviating the problem of manpower shortage; and</p> <p>(5) promoting an active ageing policy to encourage the elderly to achieve self-enhancement, continue learning and build up their social life, thus enabling them to maintain their physical and mental health.</p> <p><i>(The progress report provided by the Administration was circulated to Members under LC Paper No. CB(3)661/2023 dated 3 August 2023.)</i></p>	<p>up the promotion of VPET, so as to cultivate more talent in supporting the sustainable development of Hong Kong.</p> <p>The Panel made a number of suggestions for better promotion of STEAM education when members discussed the policy initiatives relating to education in the Chief Executive’s 2023 Policy Address, with a view to achieving the target of “invigorating the country through science and education”.</p> <p><u>Panel on Welfare Services</u></p> <p>The Panel on Welfare Services had not discussed the subject matter in the 2023 session.</p> <p><u>Panel on Home Affairs, Culture and Sports</u></p> <p>When the Panel on Home Affairs, Culture and Sports discussed the “Community Care Fund” on 11 December 2023, members noted that \$99.02 million were set aside to run the School-based After School Care Service Scheme (“the Scheme”) on a trial basis for one year. The Scheme was run after school until 6 pm from Monday to Friday and might be extended to 7 pm if school situations permitted. In addition, a total of six hours of service per day was provided on Saturday and Sunday. The Administration advised that a total of 51 primary schools</p>

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		<p>participated in the Scheme, and efforts would be made to encourage more schools to participate.</p> <p><u>Panel on Health Services</u></p> <p>No follow-up action by the Panel on Health Services.</p>
(23)	<p><u>31 May 2023</u></p> <p><b>Facing up to the management and maintenance responsibilities of the Tenants Purchase Scheme units</b></p> <p>That the Hong Kong Housing Authority launched the Tenants Purchase Scheme (‘TPS’) in 1998, and the 39 TPS estates are already over 30 years old; since its feature of a mixed tenure of private owners and public housing tenants has given rise to such problems as unclear delineation of responsibilities and chaotic management, there has been slow progress in repair and maintenance works for some buildings and their public facilities, and as a result, the appearance and interior of the buildings have become old and dilapidated and the common areas and facilities in the estates aged and worn out, with room for improvement in environmental hygiene, which has made the residents incredibly anxious yet with no solutions; this Council urges the Government to comprehensively review the TPS policy and fully play its role as the major owner to actively perform its function of monitoring estate management and, in accordance</p>	<p><u>Panel on Housing</u></p> <p>When discussing the Marking Scheme for Estate Management Enforcement in Public Housing Estates (“the Marking Scheme”), members of the Panel on Housing opined that the limited enforceability of the Marking Scheme in Tenants Purchase Scheme (“TPS”) estates had given rise to property management issues. Given the restrictive power of the Deed of Mutual Covenant on the acts of tenants at private housing developments, members enquired about the feasibility of the Housing Authority (“HA”)’s seeking agreement with the Owners’ Corporations (“OCs”) of TPS estates and expanding the scope of misdeeds applicable to TPS estates. Members considered that HA should take a more active role in implementing the Marking Scheme at TPS, and urged HA and its property management companies at TPS estates to follow up the reports lodged by the OC-appointed property management companies on misdeeds alleged to be committed by public</p>

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	<p>with the principle of safeguarding the overall interests of residents of the estates, discharge its responsibilities as the major owner to actively participate in the work of estate management and owners' corporations and promote the enhancement of property management and maintenance standards for TPS units, so that the residents will live and work in peace and contentment.</p> <p><i>(The progress report provided by the Administration was circulated to Members under LC Paper No. CB(3)669/2023 dated 10 August 2023.)</i></p>	<p>rental housing tenants and take proper actions.</p>
(24)	<p><u>7 June 2023</u></p> <p><b>Maximizing the effectiveness of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge and promoting the synergistic development of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao</b></p> <p>That, since the resumption of normal travel with the Mainland early this year, Hong Kong has resumed normalcy in full, and the usage rate of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge ('HZMB') on holidays has increased substantially, driving the interaction among the three places of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to further give play to the important role of HZMB in injecting impetus into Hong Kong's economy and the synergistic development of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, and facilitating the integration of the Guangdong-Hong</p>	<p><u>Panel on Transport</u></p> <p>The Panel on Transport has not discussed the related issues after the passage of the motion.</p> <p><u>Panel on Economic Development</u></p> <p>Members urged the Administration to work with relevant Mainland authorities to formulate concrete plans on the collaborated development with other cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and the Mainland, such as how to utilize HZMB to facilitate full value chain logistics services. This was to improve coordination among various parties in their respective areas of responsibility and leverage each other's strengths to achieve a mutually beneficial</p>

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	<p>Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, with specific measures including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="309 349 863 636">(1) fostering the development of the cross-regional logistics industry and the flow of people through achieving the connectivity of commercial and civilian vehicles in the three places;</li> <li data-bbox="309 680 863 967">(2) building an inbound car park at the Hong Kong Port and enhancing the local public transport services to and from the Hong Kong Port to facilitate visits to Hong Kong by self-drive mode;</li> <li data-bbox="309 1012 863 1415">(3) expeditiously increasing the daily number of applications processed under the Quota-free Scheme for Hong Kong Private Cars Travelling to Guangdong via the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge ('the Scheme') to progressively realize the elimination of quota control;</li> <li data-bbox="309 1460 863 1585">(4) introducing additional one-off quotas for Hong Kong vehicles entering Macao;</li> <li data-bbox="309 1630 863 1953">(5) enhancing the publicity and education work on the relevant points to note for cross-boundary driving to boost drivers' confidence in participating in the Scheme and reduce the chance of traffic accidents;</li> <li data-bbox="309 1998 863 2114">(6) improving the vehicle examination arrangements under the Scheme</li> </ol>	<p>and all-win outcome. There was also concern about the Administration's progress of the equity injection into the Zhuhai Airport, the purpose of which was to enhance cooperation with the latter and make full use of the infrastructure and transport network of the Hong Kong International Airport and HZMB to strengthen intermodal transport by sea, land and air for furthering the development of the logistics industry.</p>

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	<p>to promote mutual recognition of vehicle examination between Guangdong and Hong Kong; and</p> <p>(7) improving the traffic management arrangements for the Hong Kong Port and roads in its vicinity to effectively divert vehicular flow.</p> <p><i>(The progress report provided by the Administration was circulated to Members under LC Paper No. CB(3)674/2023 dated 17 August 2023.)</i></p>	
(25)	<p><u>7 June 2023</u></p> <p><b>Promoting the nurturing of local professional services talents</b></p> <p>That the National 14th Five-Year Plan approved in March 2021 supports Hong Kong in leveraging its position as an international professional services centre to drive the development of the professional services sectors in the entire Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, leading to a significant increase in demand for various types of professional services talents in Hong Kong; in order to ensure an adequate supply of professional services talents in Hong Kong in the future, this Council urges the SAR Government to nurture and retain local professional services talents on all fronts, including expanding the ratio of degree places in professional services disciplines</p>	<p><u>Panel on Education</u></p> <p>The Panel on Education has not discussed the related issues after the passage of the motion.</p> <p><u>Panel on Manpower</u></p> <p>At its meeting on 17 October 2023, the Panel on Manpower received a briefing by the Administration on the implementation of the Greater Bay Area Youth Employment Scheme (“GBAYES”). Members were strongly of the view that the Administration should relax the academic requirement for job seekers under GBAYES to cover graduates of associate degree and higher diploma programmes, among others, so as to enable more Hong Kong young people to gain work experience in the Guangdong-</p>

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	<p>in local tertiary institutions, encouraging and guiding students to join the professional services sectors, enhancing the training of students' understanding of the national affairs and global perspectives required by the professional services sectors, and improving the continuing education system to enable working persons to further their studies to become professional services talents; at the same time, the SAR Government should also expeditiously implement a mechanism on mutual recognition of professional qualifications in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, so as to enhance the competitiveness of local professional services talents; this Council also urges the SAR Government to prevent Hong Kong's professional services sectors from overly relying on outside talents.</p> <p><i>(The progress report provided by the Administration was circulated to Members under LC Paper No. CB(3)676/2023 dated 13 September 2023.)</i></p>	<p>Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (“GBA”) and broaden their horizons. Members also put forward a number of suggestions on how to enhance the attractiveness and flexibility of the scheme. The Administration advised that it would duly consider members' suggestions and continue to listen to stakeholders' views on the contents of the scheme, with a view to introducing appropriate enhancement measures in 2024.</p> <p>At its meeting on 21 November 2023, the Panel was briefed by the Administration on the training strategies, efforts and future plans of the Employees Retraining Board (“ERB”). Members were pleased to note that ERB would comprehensively review its positioning in training and explore how to expand its service scope and targets. There was a suggestion that ERB should discuss with the Mainland cities of GBA the establishment of a mutual recognition mechanism for the qualifications of retraining courses.</p>
(26)	<p><u>14 June 2023</u></p> <p><b>Importing electricity from the Mainland to stabilize electricity tariffs in Hong Kong</b></p> <p>That in recent years, electricity tariffs have been surging continuously, with the two power</p>	<p><u>Panel on Environmental Affairs</u></p> <p>From 7 to 9 August 2023, the Panel on Environmental Affairs conducted a duty visit jointly with government officials from the Environment and Ecology Bureau to three cities in the</p>



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	<p>companies earning the maximum permitted return of 8%, aggravating the already heavy burden on people’s livelihood and the costs of doing business; in this connection, this Council considers that the Government should implement the policy objectives set out in the Public Consultation on the Future Development of the Electricity Market published in 2015 to continue to introduce competition to the electricity market, and start preparing for opening up the power grids for access by new electricity suppliers in accordance with paragraphs 26 and 27 of Schedule 5 to the Scheme of Control Agreements (‘SCAs’), so as to open up the electricity market progressively, and increase the ratio of electricity imported from the Mainland, so as to reduce the two power companies’ investments on fixed assets and achieve stabilization of electricity tariffs; in the medium and long term, the Government should review SCAs, including lowering the permitted return of the two power companies to alleviate the pressure of tariff increase; reviewing the Customer Performance Incentive/Penalty Mechanism and the monthly Fuel Clause Charge adjustment mechanism to reflect the corporate social responsibilities of the two power companies; and urging the two power companies to disclose their operational and financial information to the public, including the maintenance costs and depreciation of their generating units, the prices of bulk energy purchases, the interest costs of</p>	<p>Greater Bay Area (“GBA”), namely Guangzhou, Foshan and Shenzhen, to obtain first-hand information about the latest developments of these cities in areas including adoption of clean energy and renewable energy. During the visit, the Panel delegation visited Daya Bay Nuclear Power Station which had been providing stable and reliable nuclear electricity supply to Hong Kong. In view of the soaring fuel costs in the global market in recent years, members opined that Hong Kong should increase the share of nuclear energy in the local fuel mix for electricity generation in order to serve a dual purpose of decarbonization and stabilizing tariff levels. The Administration was requested to discuss with relevant parties in the Mainland in this regard.</p> <p>On 28 November 2023, the Administration briefed the Panel on the approved 2024-28 Development Plans of the two power companies, the 2024 tariff review results, and the outcome of the interim review of the Scheme of Control Agreements in 2023. Members called on the Administration to consider importing more zero-carbon energy from the Mainland and supplying new development areas such as the Northern Metropolis with electricity directly imported from the Mainland.</p>

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	<p>lending and financing and related information, so as to enhance the public's right to know and the transparency of their operations, thereby earnestly addressing people's concerns and difficulties in daily life and dismantling the barriers of vested interests.</p> <p><i>(The progress report provided by the Administration was circulated to Members under LC Paper No. CB(3)671/2023 dated 15 August 2023.)</i></p>	
(27)	<p><u>14 June 2023</u></p> <p><b>Actively promoting the development of Chinese medicine to alleviate the pressure on the healthcare system</b></p> <p>That the current-term Government vigorously develops primary healthcare and advocates proper disease prevention to improve people's health; moreover, Chinese medicine has been proven highly effective in disease prevention, treatment and rehabilitation; given that the continued ageing of the population in Hong Kong has put increasing pressure on the existing public healthcare system, this Council urges the Government to actively promote the development of Chinese medicine in Hong Kong to tie in with the overall planning for the development of primary healthcare through specific measures including developing public Chinese medicine services, enhancing collaboration between Western and</p>	<p><u>Panel on Health Services</u></p> <p>While members raised no objection to the Administration's submission of the proposal to create the position of the Commissioner for Chinese Medicine Development ("the Commissioner") to the Establishment Subcommittee for consideration, a number of members were of the view that the Commissioner had to have a professional Chinese medicine ("CM") background, hold relevant academic qualifications, have a scientific research background and clinical experience, as well as having knowledge of public healthcare policies. It was not enough to merely require the Commissioner to understand CM development, and professionals should not be led by a layman. Some members also expressed their expectation on the Commissioner to assist in developing a product brand</p>

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	<p>Chinese medicine, expediting the legislative work on inter-referral between Chinese medicine services and other healthcare professional services, facilitating Chinese medicine specialization development, expeditiously formulating salary structures and promotion mechanisms for Chinese medicine practitioners to improve their remuneration packages, expediting the construction of Hong Kong's Chinese Medicine Hospital and piloting integrated Chinese and Western medicine treatment, introducing Chinese medicine prevention and health maintenance services at District Health Centres in the 18 districts, increasing the number of the tripartite Chinese Medicine Clinics cum Training and Research Centres and allocating more resources to expand their scale in order to provide more government-subsidized service places so that patients with mild illnesses and those with chronic diseases will have more chances to receive Chinese medicine services and, as a result, healthcare cases can be triaged effectively, expediting the implementation of health record sharing between Western and Chinese medicine services to facilitate more comprehensive Integrated Chinese-Western Medicine treatment for patients, and making good use of the first Chinese Medicine Hospital located in Tseung Kwan O to strengthen the training of Chinese medicine talents, and encouraging more Chinese medicine practitioners to conduct clinical and academic</p>	<p>characterized by the integration of CM and Western medicine in Hong Kong and help the brand to gain international recognition. It was therefore considered necessary for the Commissioner to have an international outlook. They also expressed their expectation on the Commissioner to strive for the permission for CM practitioners in Hong Kong to further practise in the Mainland.</p> <p>Considering it necessary for the Administration to reform the system in order to better promote CM development, some members pointed out that the following would hinder CM development: an absence of a CM department in public hospitals; unsatisfactory remuneration and promotion ladder for CM practitioners; provision of integrated Chinese and Western medicine ("ICWM") services in eight public hospitals only at present; and different consultation fees charged by CM and Western medical practitioners. Some other members pointed out that at present, the threshold for becoming a Western medical practitioner was much higher than that for becoming a CM practitioner. If CM practitioners were to be on a par with Western medical practitioners in various aspects such as remuneration, requirements in terms of the system and quality had to be set. In addition, some members urged the Administration to set</p>

<b>No.</b>	<b>Date of Council meeting, and subject and wording of motion</b>	<b>Follow-up actions taken by relevant committees of the Council</b>
	<p>research in order to enhance the standard of clinical treatment in Chinese medicine, with a view to better safeguarding the health of Hong Kong people and alleviating the pressure on the healthcare system in Hong Kong.</p> <p><i>(The progress report provided by the Administration was circulated to Members under LC Paper No. CB(3)678/2023 dated 19 September 2023.)</i></p>	<p>specific targets, such as when and how many Chinese Medicine Clinics cum Training and Research Centres would be set up, the amount of additional resources to be allocated by the Hospital Authority (“HA”) to enhance ICWM services, etc. They also expressed support for the expeditious formulation of a blueprint for CM development.</p> <p>Expressing concern about the current lack of clinical guidelines for referral of cases between Chinese and Western medical practitioners, some members asked whether the Administration had any plan to collaborate with universities or the sector to promote the formulation of guidelines on ICWM treatment for use by the sector. Some other members also expressed concern over the ways to prevent duplication of resources under the ICWM approach. In addition, some members expressed concern as to whether the services of CM clinics and the future Chinese Medicine Hospital would include bone-setting for the treatment of bone injuries, and whether bone-setting would be included in the scope of regulation of CM.</p> <p>Some members expressed concern as to whether the Administration would consider injecting funds to the Chinese Medicine Development Fund in the Budget, and increasing the number of places of CM</p>

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		<p>programmes to train local talents and enhance the manpower of CM practitioners. Some other members also expressed concern about how many CM practitioners had already registered to use the CM information system namely “EC Connect”, and whether more data could be opened up for viewing by CM practitioners. They also expressed concern as to how the Administration would provide CM practitioners and CM clinics with technical assistance in using the aforesaid system, as well as the functions of a Digitalized Chinese Medicines Information Platform.</p> <p>Some members considered that the Administration should review the effectiveness of the ICWM Pilot Programme and extend its coverage to all public hospitals and medical institutions in Hong Kong. Some other members urged the Administration to consider proactively a direct operation and provision of CM services by HA, so that the public could receive appropriate CM treatment.</p>
(28)	<p><u>28 June 2023</u></p> <p><b>Promoting the unleashing of potential labour force</b></p> <p>That Hong Kong’s economic recovery is plagued by many uncertainties externally and internally, among which a persistent decrease in labour force and labour</p>	<p><u>Panel on Manpower</u></p> <p>At its meeting on 21 November 2023, the Panel on Manpower discussed the proposal for the Employees Retraining Board (“ERB”) to increase the maximum monthly retraining allowance from \$5,800 to \$8,000. Members were of the</p>

<b>No.</b>	<b>Date of Council meeting, and subject and wording of motion</b>	<b>Follow-up actions taken by relevant committees of the Council</b>
	<p>force participation rate is the most pressing issue that needs to be handled; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to, under the premise of ensuring local workers' priority in employment, formulate macroscopic and long-term labour policies to actively identify and unleash potential labour force, including removing the barriers to work for various groups, such as women, the elderly and middle-aged, ethnic minorities, new arrivals and persons with disabilities; enhancing targeted employment support and retraining services to assist the non-working population to rejoin the labour market; and commencing a new round of manpower projection while formulating a labour shortage list and employment schemes targeted at understaffed occupations to identify and train potential labour force and encourage them to work in industries with labour shortage; and increasing the strength of policies to attract and support non-local graduates who study in Hong Kong to stay in Hong Kong for employment, so as to ensure persistent and stable supply of labour force from quantity to quality in Hong Kong, and meet the needs of various industries for sustainable development in a timely manner, with a view to providing more impetus for Hong Kong's competitiveness and economic growth; this Council also urges the Government to improve the working environment and employment terms of various industries to create a fairer employment market that rewards hard work so that</p>	<p>view that the Administration and ERB should explore the possibility of further increasing the maximum amount of allowance to strengthen the financial support for trainees enrolled in retraining courses, with a view to encouraging more members of the public to receive training, enhancing their employability and facilitating their participation in the workforce.</p> <p>At the same meeting, when the Panel received a briefing by the Secretary for Labour and Welfare on the major policy initiatives pertaining to the labour and manpower portfolio in the Chief Executive's 2023 Policy Address, some members welcomed the Administration's implementation of the pilot Vocational Professionals Admission Scheme ("VPAS"), under which non-local students of designated full-time professional Higher Diploma programmes of the Vocational Training Council would be allowed to stay in Hong Kong for one year after graduation to seek jobs relevant to their disciplines. Some members urged the Administration to expeditiously review the skilled trades covered by VPAS, and consider incorporating programmes related to hospitality and tourism into VPAS, so as to help the sectors cope with their manpower shortages.</p>

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	<p>employees can have quality career development, thus attracting more potential labour force to take up employment, and avoiding long-term reliance on foreign labour.</p> <p><i>(The progress report provided by the Administration was circulated to Members under LC Paper No. CB(3)675/2023 dated 31 August 2023.)</i></p>	<p><u>Panel on Welfare Services</u></p> <p>The Panel on Welfare Services had not discussed the subject matter in the 2023 session.</p> <p><u>Panel on Education</u></p> <p>While the Panel on Education has not discussed promotion of the unleashing of potential labour force, members from time to time made suggestions on how to attract and support non-local graduates to work in Hong Kong.</p>
(29)	<p><u>28 June 2023</u></p> <p><b>Resolving the problems of traffic safety of and insurance premium increases for taxis</b></p> <p>That according to the statistics of the Government, the number of taxi accidents has substantially increased in recent years, posing danger to passengers, drivers, pedestrians and other vehicles; the increase in taxi accidents has led to an increase in insurance compensations paid by insurance companies and the corresponding rise of insurance premiums, forcing the taxi trade to apply for fare increases to offset their expenses and thereby affecting people's livelihood; a number of recent taxi accidents have involved elderly drivers, arousing public concern; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to take the following measures:</p>	<p><u>Panel on Transport</u></p> <p>The Panel on Transport has not discussed the related issues after the passage of the motion.</p> <p><u>Panel on Financial Affairs</u></p> <p>The Panel on Financial Affairs has not discussed the related issues after the passage of the motion.</p> <p><u>Panel on Environmental Affairs</u></p> <p>From 7 to 9 August 2023, the Panel on Environmental Affairs conducted a duty visit jointly with government officials from the Environment and Ecology Bureau to three cities in the Greater Bay Area ("GBA"), namely Guangzhou, Foshan and Shenzhen, to obtain first-hand information about the latest developments of these cities in areas including</p>

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	<p>(1) with the Transport Department and the Insurance Authority taking the lead, discussing with the taxi trade and the insurance sector effective and mutually acceptable methods to prevent accidents or reduce the risk of accidents, so as to achieve the goal of reducing insurance premiums or insurance excesses;</p> <p>(2) providing incentives to encourage taxi owners to phase out old taxis in poor conditions, while at the same time improving charging facilities to encourage taxi owners to switch to electric taxis, so as to enhance traffic safety, and adopting more stringent annual examination standards for taxis which are 20 years of age or above;</p> <p>(3) after discussion with the trade, amending the legislation expeditiously to implement the lowering of the age for taxi drivers to undergo medical examination to 65 and require them to undergo medical examination once every year, and providing medical examination subsidies to reduce the financial burden on taxi drivers;</p>	<p>adoption of new energy transport. The delegation visited the Yangling new energy eco-industrial park of the Guangzhou Public Transport Group to learn about the development of energy storage, charging and battery swapping facilities for electric public transport vehicles in Guangzhou. Members suggested that Hong Kong should draw reference from the Mainland experience to expedite the provision of a territory-wide quick charging network for electric commercial vehicles including electric taxis.</p> <p>When the Panel received a briefing by the Administration on the key environmental measures in the Chief Executive's 2023 Policy Address on 30 October 2023, Members suggested the Administration provide subsidies to relevant transport operators (include the taxi trade) to encourage them to switch to electric vehicles and set a target for the adoption of electric taxis that was more ambitious than the target announced in the 2022 Policy Address (i.e. introducing around 3 000 electric taxis by end-2027).</p> <p>At the meeting on 15 December 2023, the Administration briefed the Panel on the strategies for promoting the conversion of petrol fueling</p>



<b>No.</b>	<b>Date of Council meeting, and subject and wording of motion</b>	<b>Follow-up actions taken by relevant committees of the Council</b>
	<p>(4) in order to safeguard the safety of road users, stepping up the promotion of taxi-related innovation and technology ('I&amp;T') research, and promoting the wider adoption of I&amp;T in the taxi trade, including requiring all taxis to progressively be installed with driver assistance devices to monitor drivers' mental state and driving behaviour and provide instant reminders, and using technology to record taxi drivers' driving behaviour to rectify their bad driving habits;</p> <p>(5) requiring all taxis to progressively be installed with cloud-connected dash cameras to record traffic conditions, so as to clarify responsibilities for accidents and, at the same time, remind drivers to drive with care and prevent insurance frauds; and</p> <p>(6) assisting the taxi trade in improving the business environment, including enhancing the taxi service quality and introducing a training mechanism for the trade, so as to attract young drivers with good driving skills to join the taxi trade, thereby enhancing the traffic safety of taxis.</p>	<p>stations into quick charging stations ("QCSs"). Members stressed the need to prevent long queues of EVs (electric taxis in particular) outside QCSs and minimize traffic impact of QCSs' operation. Members also requested the Administration to ensure that the public charging network could meet the operational needs of the taxi trade.</p>

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	<p><i>(The progress report provided by the Administration was circulated to Members under LC Paper No. CB(3)679/2023 dated 21 September 2023.)</i></p>	
(30)	<p><u>5 July 2023</u></p> <p><b>Improving innovation and technology education to strengthen the nurturing of local innovation and technology talents</b></p> <p>That the National 14th Five-Year Plan has established Hong Kong’s ‘eight centres’ positioning, including supporting Hong Kong to develop into an international innovation and technology (‘I&amp;T’) hub; as the development of I&amp;T is an important driving force for enhancing national strength, boosting the economy and improving people’s livelihood, places around the world have invested substantial resources in the I&amp;T field, and the demand for I&amp;T talents is growing; the Government promulgated the Hong Kong Innovation and Technology Development Blueprint last year to establish a clear development path and formulate systematic strategic planning for Hong Kong’s I&amp;T development over the next 5 to 10 years, charting Hong Kong in moving full steam towards the vision of an international I&amp;T centre; however, with a shortage of I&amp;T talents in Hong Kong, it is necessary to strengthen the nurturing of local I&amp;T talents in the long term; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to:</p>	<p><u>Panel on Education</u></p> <p>During the 2023 session, the Panel on Education has from time to time made suggestions on how to arouse students’ interest in learning science and technology; and enhance STEAM education and strengthen support for STEAM teachers in response to social development trends, innovation and technology development needs, and Hong Kong’s development into the “eight centres”.</p> <p><u>Panel on Commerce, Industry, Innovation and Technology</u></p> <p>The Panel on Commerce, Industry, Innovation and Technology has not discussed related issues after passage of the motion.</p>

<b>No.</b>	<b>Date of Council meeting, and subject and wording of motion</b>	<b>Follow-up actions taken by relevant committees of the Council</b>
	<p>(1) set up a steering committee on I&amp;T education to step up the promotion of I&amp;T education and regularly review the progress of nurturing local I&amp;T talents;</p> <p>(2) review and revamp the I&amp;T teaching contents in pre-primary, primary, secondary and post-secondary education as well as vocational and professional education and training, so as to re-establish a flexible and systematic curriculum framework for the learning area of I&amp;T;</p> <p>(3) further enhance the pre-service and in-service training of I&amp;T teachers;</p> <p>(4) set up ‘district I&amp;T education centres’ to fully support the teaching of I&amp;T in schools;</p> <p>(5) arrange more extensive and quality exchange activities for teachers and students to broaden their horizons and foster their sense of innovation;</p> <p>(6) develop guidelines on the I&amp;T cultivation elements of off-school I&amp;T programmes to ensure the quality of the programmes; and</p> <p>(7) strengthen the recruitment of scientific research scholars from outside Hong Kong (including other cities of</p>	

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	<p>the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area) to teach and conduct research and development on I&amp;T in Hong Kong, and provide subsidies to attract them to stay in Hong Kong for development and to help nurture local I&amp;T talents;</p> <p>(8) support the development of educational technology that meets local teaching needs, and integrate I&amp;T elements into the curricula of different subjects; and</p> <p>(9) promote the collaboration among the Government, the business sector, the academics and the community in organizing diversified I&amp;T activities in the community to create a good atmosphere for I&amp;T education;</p> <p>(10) improve the arrangements for local schools to form sister school pairs with their Mainland counterparts, so as to encourage schools in the two places to organize more exchange activities on I&amp;T topics; and</p> <p>(11) improve the curriculum of the subject of Citizenship and Social Development at the senior secondary level to provide more opportunities for students interested in exploring the development of I&amp;T to participate in Mainland study tours,</p>	

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	<p>thereby meeting the increasing demand for I&amp;T talents.</p> <p><i>(The progress report provided by the Administration was circulated to Members under LC Paper No. CB(3)686/2023 dated 6 October 2023.)</i></p>	
(31)	<p><u>12 July 2023</u></p> <p><b>Strengthening child-minding services</b></p> <p>That the fertility rate of Hong Kong has been persistently on the low side in recent years; due to factors such as post-epidemic changes in the economic environment, higher child-raising costs, and more women choosing to realize self-worth in the workplace, Hong Kong people's childbearing aspirations have declined further; this Council urges the Government to actively strengthen child care services provided in a home-based or centre-based setting, and in particular, solve the problem of insufficient daytime child-minding places for children aged 0-3, and provide training for home-based child carers and raise the allowance to attract more people to become home-based child carers, so as to ease child care pressure on dual-income parents, ethnic minority and single-parent families, and parents of children with special educational needs; this Council also urges the Government to, based on the principle of 'Educare', enhance the manning ratio of child care centres, and upgrade the software and hardware facilities and service</p>	<p><u>Panel on Welfare Services</u></p> <p>At the Policy briefing-cum-meeting on 13 November 2023, Members urged the Administration to increase the places for the School-based After School Care Service Scheme, prioritize underprivileged students living farther away, and evaluate the effectiveness of the Scheme. Members also called for strengthening the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project, including a substantial increase in the number of home-based child carers and the provision of pick-up services for children, in order to alleviate parents' burden.</p>

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	<p>standards of home-based care providers or care centres.</p> <p><i>(The progress report provided by the Administration was circulated to Members under LC Paper No. CB(3)677/2023 dated 18 September 2023.)</i></p>	
(32)	<p><u>18 October 2023</u></p> <p><b>Following up on President XI Jinping’s important instruction on innovation and technology on 30 June 2022</b></p> <p>That science and technology is the primary productive force, talent is the primary resource and innovation is the primary driver of growth; President XI Jinping, during his visit to the Hong Kong Science Park on 30 June 2022, stressed that the country attaches great importance to technology and innovation and fully implements the innovation-driven development strategy, and that the country has included its support for Hong Kong in building itself into an international centre for innovation and technology (‘I&amp;T’) in the 14th Five-Year Plan, with very high expectations on Hong Kong; in this connection, this Council urges the Government, in response to President XI’s expectations on Hong Kong’s I&amp;T development, to regularly review the measures for driving such development; attach importance to nurturing and bringing in outstanding scientific research talents; strengthen collaboration with the industry, academic and research</p>	<p><u>Panel on Commerce, Industry, Innovation and Technology</u></p> <p>During the policy briefing by the Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry on the 2023 Policy Address, members enquired about the progress of the development plan for the San Tin Technopole in the Northern Metropolis, and urged the Administration to formulate appropriate policies for the development of innovation and technology (‘I&amp;T’) industries as soon as possible to align with the strategic position of San Tin Technopole as a hub for clustered I&amp;T development. Members also urged the Administration to promote the proactive integration of Hong Kong’s I&amp;T industries into the overall development of the country, and foster the synergistic development of the Hetao Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Cooperation Zone, including exploring with the Mainland authorities innovative measures (such as measures to facilitate cross-boundary data flow) applicable to the Cooperation Zone.</p>

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	<p>sectors of the Mainland, including taking forward the development of ‘one zone, two parks’ of the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Innovation and Technology Cooperation Zone to foster coordinated I&amp;T development between Shenzhen and Hong Kong; as well as further leverage Hong Kong’s advantage as a financing platform for I&amp;T enterprises and step up efforts to promote the transformation of technological achievements; this Council also urges the Government to:</p> <p>(1) strengthen institutional cooperation between Hong Kong and other cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area in basic scientific research and transformation of such achievements, and explore a collaborative innovation development mode in the transformation and application as well as large-scale production of scientific research achievements among higher education institutions in Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao;</p> <p>(2) expeditiously extend the eligibility criteria of the ‘Research, Academic and Industry Sectors One-plus Scheme’ and the relevant funding schemes of the Innovation and Technology Commission to cover the eight University Grants Committee (‘UGC’)-funded universities and the 14 self-</p>	<p><u>Subcommittee on Matters Relating to the Development of the Northern Metropolis</u></p> <p>When discussing the Northern Metropolis Action Agenda, members of the Subcommittee on Matters Relating to the Development of the Northern Metropolis enquired about the reasons for distributing the post-secondary institutions in the form of the “Northern Metropolis University Town” in three different areas including Hung Sui Kiu/Ha Tseun, New Territories North New Town and Ngau Tam Mei for promoting “research, academic and industry” collaboration. They suggested that post-secondary institutions focusing on scientific research should be located within San Tin Technopole. Members also enquired about the relationship between the 87 hectares of land in Hong Kong-Shenzhen I&amp;T Park (“HSITP”) in the Loop and the 213 hectares of land in San Tin Technopole and the progress of construction of buildings located in HSITP in the Loop and San Tin areas. They suggested that the Administration import electricity from the Mainland to stabilize electricity tariffs in the Northern Metropolis, particularly in San Tin Technopole and the Loop where industries such as data centres would have a heavy demand on electricity supply.</p>

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	<p>financing or non-UGC-funded tertiary institutions, so as to expedite the implementation of the vision of fully implementing the innovation-driven development strategy and supporting Hong Kong in building itself into an international centre for I&amp;T as mentioned by President XI;</p> <p>(3) foster quadripartite collaboration among the government, industry, academic and research sectors to focus on promoting Hong Kong's scientific research achievements and technologies; and</p> <p>(4) reserve sufficient land in the Northern Metropolis and the Artificial Islands in the Central Waters for the development of I&amp;T-related higher education, research and development, and industries,</p> <p>so as to accelerate the promotion of Hong Kong's development into an international centre for I&amp;T.</p> <p><i>(The progress report provided by the Administration was circulated to Members under LC Paper No. CB(3)968/2023 dated 19 December 2023.)</i></p>	



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(33)	<p data-bbox="309 228 564 264"><u>18 October 2023</u></p> <p data-bbox="309 318 847 439"><b>Comprehensively reviewing the securities market regime for small and medium enterprises</b></p> <p data-bbox="309 488 858 2145">That to implement the country’s support for Hong Kong in enhancing its status as an international financial centre and strengthening its functions as an international asset management centre as outlined in the 14th Five-Year Plan, Hong Kong must seize the opportunities brought about by the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, the Belt and Road, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, family offices, petro-yuan, platforms for cryptocurrencies, and so on; however, since the reform of the listing mechanism in 2018, the number of small and medium enterprises (‘SMEs’) that can successfully raise funds through listing on the Growth Enterprise Market has decreased substantially; the vetting and approving of many SMEs’ listing applications has been hindered, making it difficult for SMEs to raise funds through listing, so these SMEs have switched to listing in markets outside Hong Kong for raising funds, significantly undermining Hong Kong’s functions as an international listing and fund-raising centre; hence, this Council urges the SAR Government to comprehensively review and reform the current listing regime for SMEs, thus enabling enterprises from different countries, in different</p>	<p data-bbox="922 228 1321 264"><u>Panel on Financial Affairs</u></p> <p data-bbox="922 318 1406 1460">During the briefing on the policy initiatives relating to financial services in the Chief Executive’s 2023 Policy Address, the Panel on Financial Affairs discussed with the Administration on the work of the Task Force on Enhancing Stock Market Liquidity on improving stock market liquidity and the listing regime, as well as the proposals on GEM reform put forward by the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited. Members expressed concern on the recent sluggish performance of the local stock market, and called on the Administration to take the opportunity presented by mutual access between the Mainland and Hong Kong markets to improve the business environment of Hong Kong’s securities sector and promote the sustainable development of the stock market.</p>

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	<p>industries and of different scales to list and raise funds in Hong Kong, so as to establish a diversified securities market and attract more different types of global investors to participate in the securities market in Hong Kong; at the same time, with Hong Kong being an international financial centre, the SAR Government should also balance the regulation and development of the securities market, and review the role positioning of financial intermediaries of different capital backgrounds to assist more SMEs in listing and raising funds, thereby boosting the sustainable development of the securities market.</p> <p><i>(The progress report provided by the Administration was circulated to Members under LC Paper No. CB(3)970/2023 dated 28 December 2023.)</i></p>	
(34)	<p><u>1 November 2023</u></p> <p><b>Improving policies and measures relating to family support</b></p> <p>That the family is the building block of society; the National 14th Five-Year Plan has mentioned strengthening family building, including establishing a legal and policy system to support family development to promote the process of family education legislation, strengthen the implementation of the Anti-Domestic Violence Law, improve marriage and family counselling services, and prevent and resolve marriage and family</p>	<p><u>Panel on Welfare Services</u></p> <p>At its meeting on 10 July 2023, the Panel on Welfare Services discussed matters relating to support for single-parent families. Members recognized the problems faced by single-parent families, such as financial difficulties, child care, psychological well-being, employment and social support. To address these issues, Members proposed strengthening family services through expanding Integrated Family Service Centre services, establishing more Specialized</p>

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	<p>conflicts and disputes; there has been an upward trend in the divorce rate in Hong Kong in recent years, and the social issues arising from divorced families are in dire need of concern from the community; this Council urges the Government to strengthen the support services and other ancillary services for divorced and single-parent families, including setting up a dedicated department to assist in recovery of maintenance payments; enhancing marriage and family counselling services at the Integrated Family Service Centres; alleviating the poverty problem of working and single-parent families; promoting co-parenting education; promoting and improving the mental health support services for working families to foster social and family harmony; identifying and intervening in families in crisis at an early stage to provide timely support and prevent the occurrence of family violence; strengthening the formulation of a ‘carer-centric’ policy; increasing resources to enhance the role and services of parents resource centres; expanding community child care and after-school care services, and encouraging enterprises to implement family-friendly employment practices.</p> <p><i>(The progress report provided by the Administration was circulated to Members under LC Paper No. CB(3)973/2023 dated 3 January 2024.)</i></p>	<p>Co-parenting Support Centres, and formulating policies to support voluntary groups and non-governmental organizations in delivering district-based specialized services for single-parent families, especially those facing separation, divorce, or post-divorce situations involving custody and access arrangements for children. To tackle the difficulties encountered by divorcees in collecting maintenance payments, Members called for the establishment of a maintenance board or dedicated team and reviewing existing legislation to assist these divorcees in securing their maintenance payments. Members also recommended comprehensive mental health support for single parents to mitigate their emotional strain. To help single working parents maintain closer relationships with their children, Members suggested implementing family-friendly employment policies, such as standard working hours, and encouraging employers to promote the adoption of family-friendly employment practices, such as providing after-school care services at the workplace.</p> <p><u>Subcommittee on Promoting Carer-centric Policies</u></p> <p>At its meeting on 12 December 2023, the Subcommittee on Promoting Carer-centric</p>

<b>No.</b>	<b>Date of Council meeting, and subject and wording of motion</b>	<b>Follow-up actions taken by relevant committees of the Council</b>
		<p>Policies discussed the district-level publicity activities (“the activities”) on carers. Members stressed the importance of expanding the definition of carers to enable them to choose activities that best suit their needs and preferences. Members also proposed other recommendations including setting key performance indicators; incorporating enquiries received from the Designated Hotline for Carer Support to make the content of the activity best suit the specific needs of carers; and collaborating with government departments, schools, and non-government organizations to ensure the activities could meet the needs of carers at all levels. To enhance carers’ overall well-being while engaging in the activities, Members also suggested the provision of additional support, such as employment opportunities, peer connections, and financial assistance.</p> <p>The Subcommittee was also briefed on the Pilot Scheme on Training for Foreign Domestic Helpers (“FDHs”) in Elderly Care and the Pilot Scheme on Training for FDHs in Care for Persons with Disabilities (“Pilot Scheme”). Members emphasized the need for pre-employment training for FDHs and suggested referring FDHs to training courses through intermediaries or mandating</p>

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		<p>such training based on experiences in other countries. Other recommendations put forth by Members included expanding the training to cater to specific needs of different care recipients; ensuring sufficient training quotas to meet the demand; establishing an accreditation system to maintain training quality; regularizing the Pilot Schemes; and extending the Special Scheme to Import of Care Workers for Residential Care Homes to the field of home care.</p> <p><u>Panel on Health Services</u></p> <p>Some members welcomed that the Administration would launch a pilot scheme to provide mental health assessments for the public in three District Health Centres (“DHCs”). Members also suggested that mental health counsellors or designated social workers should be recruited at DHCs/DHC Expresses in 18 districts to conduct the above-mentioned assessments for the public. Members also considered that the Administration should increase the manpower of psychiatric doctors and community nurses via means including expanding the Talent List, setting up a committee to examine ways to enhance the training of local talents, and taking measures to retain talents.</p>

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		<p>As for members' concern about how the Administration could ensure that the measures to enhance mental health services would be implemented effectively, the Administration advised that many services and support hotlines on mental health were available in the community, but there was a lack of consolidation. Therefore, the Administration had announced in the 2022 Policy Address the setting up of a mental health support hotline to coordinate and consolidate different mental health services that were currently available to provide one-stop immediate support and referral services. The hotline was launched in December 2023.</p> <p><u>Subcommittee on Promoting Family Education</u></p> <p>At the meeting of the Subcommittee on Promoting Family Education held in December 2023, the Administration briefed the Subcommittee on its work on the strategies and measures of promoting parent education and the efforts of the Family Council in promoting family education. The Subcommittee noted that the Education Bureau focused on promoting parent education at school level and had all along been supporting home-school co-operation, forging home-school partnership and promoting parent education through</p>

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		<p>primary and secondary schools as well as kindergartens. In addition, the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau had been collaborating with the Family Council to take forward family education related work, and would launch a new five-year Funding Scheme on the Promotion of Family Education in the latter half of 2024 to support community projects promoting family education. The amount of funding of the new scheme would be \$8 million per year.</p> <p>The Subcommittee suggested that the Administration should review the effectiveness in implementing parent education and explore ways to better coordinate different bureaux/departments with a view to implementing parent education in a more systematic manner. The Subcommittee was also of the view that the Administration might consider reaching out to parents through other channels, such as offering parent education to new parents as early as possible, encouraging enterprises/trade unions to organize workplace parent education programmes/activities for their staff during working hours, and stepping up publicity and promotion of the education programmes and activities organized by non-governmental organizations in the community.</p>

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		<p>At its future meetings, the Subcommittee will discuss with the Administration other issues relating to promoting family education, including home-school cooperation, support services for families and promotion of family-friendly practices.</p>
(35)	<p><u>1 November 2023</u></p> <p><b>Implementing patriotic education in greater depth and breadth</b></p> <p>That the HKSAR has returned to the motherland for 26 years, but there are views that members of the public have an inadequate understanding of national affairs in general and lack a sense of belonging to the country; the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress has enacted the Patriotic Education Law with the aim of promoting patriotic education to make patriotism a firm faith, spiritual strength and voluntary action of all the people; in particular, the Law also proposes that our country shall adopt relevant measures to enhance the patriotic spirit of Hong Kong people; in this connection, this Council urges the SAR Government to attach great importance to the efforts in promoting patriotic education and continuously improve the policies on promoting patriotic education according to the spirit of the Patriotic Education Law, by reference to the requirements of the relevant provisions and in the light of the actual situation in</p>	<p><u>Panel on Constitutional Affairs</u></p> <p>When the Panel on Constitutional Affairs received a briefing by the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs on the 2023 Policy Address, members expressed support for the Government’s plan to establish a Working Group on Patriotic Education (“Working Group”) under the Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee in the first quarter of 2024.</p> <p>The Administration advised that the Working Group would comprise official and non-official members and be responsible for coordinating the work of government departments and non-governmental organizations in taking forward national education and dovetailing with the content set out in the Patriotic Education Law of the People’s Republic of China. The Administration was examining the composition, mode of operation and scope of work, etc. of the Working Group, and would make</p>



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	<p>Hong Kong, including setting up a coordinating committee on patriotic education to coordinate the relevant efforts, continuously enriching the mode and experience of patriotic education, and developing a patriotic education curriculum with content including important chapters such as the modern history of the country, the development history of the Communist Party of China, the Constitution and the Basic Law, with a view to implementing patriotic education in Hong Kong in greater depth and breadth; this Council also urges the SAR Government to enrich the content and implementation vehicles of patriotic education for young people; this Council also urges the SAR Government to enrich the patriotic education in three aspects of cognition, affection (attitudes, values and sentiments) and action.</p> <p><i>(Awaiting the progress report provided by the Administration.)</i></p>	<p>announcement when details were finalized.</p> <p><u>Panel on Education</u></p> <p>During the 2023 session, the Panel on Education made a number of suggestions for effective implementation of patriotic education. Members visited the Patriotic Education Centre in Sha Tin on 7 January 2023 to understand its work in supporting the education sector to promote national education and national security education. The Panel will continue to monitor the implementation of patriotic education in schools.</p> <p><u>Panel on Home Affairs, Culture and Sports</u></p> <p>The Panel on Home Affairs, Culture and Sports discussed the setting up of two museums to showcase the development and achievements of our country and to introduce the history of the War of Resistance respectively on 11 December 2023. Members noted that the former museum would cover such areas as its history, politics, economic development and culture. Before the commissioning of the new museum, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department would set up exhibition galleries in existing museums to display the relevant contents and deepen public understanding of our country and national affairs.</p>

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		<p>Moreover, the Administration would convert the existing Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence into the Hong Kong Museum of the War of Resistance and Coastal Defence. It would focus on the history of the War of Resistance to cultivate a stronger sense of national esteem and patriotism among the general public.</p> <p>Meanwhile, the Administration is identifying a suitable site for the proposed museum to showcase the development and achievements of our country. The Administration will provide further details in due course.</p>
(36)	<p><u>8 November 2023</u></p> <p><b>Reviewing public finance policies</b></p> <p>That it is estimated that in 2046, more than one in every three people in Hong Kong will be an elderly; as Hong Kong is facing the problem of population ageing, which has caused public expenditure to increase progressively, this Council urges the Government to examine the current conditions of public finance and initiate studies on increasing the sources of financial revenue, so as to make early preparation for the long-term financial burden arising from the transition to an ageing society; moreover, the Government should exercise stringent control over increases in recurrent expenditure, yet it should not reduce its investment for the future because of</p>	<p><u>Panel on Financial Affairs</u></p> <p>During the briefing by the Financial Secretary on Hong Kong's latest overall economic situation and 2024-2025 Budget consultation on 4 December 2023, members suggested the Administration formulate measures to contain the growth of public expenditure and broaden the revenue base to ensure the stability of public finance in view of the huge budget deficit and reduction of revenue from land sale.</p>

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	<p>the increasing financial burden, and should tap into private market forces to help Hong Kong cope with the challenges of an ageing society and continue to move forward; this Council also urges the Government to uphold the principle of keeping the expenditure within the limits of revenues enshrined in the Basic Law, and initiate studies on the possibility of reducing expenditure; this Council also urges the Government to proactively reduce ineffective and even unnecessary expenditure.</p> <p><i>(The progress report provided by the Administration was circulated to Members under LC Paper No. CB(3)43/2024 dated 12 January 2024.)</i></p>	
(37)	<p><u>8 November 2023</u></p> <p><b>Accelerating the construction of community facilities for a smart city and bridging the digital divide</b></p> <p>That the Government is pressing ahead to develop Hong Kong into a smart city in order to improve the quality of life of its people; the Government has put forward a number of proposals on building a smart city in the 2022 and 2023 Policy Addresses respectively, including turning all government services online, launching over a hundred of digital government initiatives to promote digital government and the smart city, encouraging the opening up of more data and promoting 5G development, so as to reverse</p>	<p><u>Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting</u></p> <p>At the meeting on 10 July 2023, the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting was briefed by the Administration on the progress of its work on digital inclusion initiatives. Members exchanged views with the Administration on the operational details of the Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund (“the SIE Fund”), which funded projects involving the promotion of digital inclusion or the use of digital technologies for service enhancement. Members raised concerns about how the Administration would</p>

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	<p>the current situation that many new technological applications in Hong Kong fail to keep abreast of the times, and fail to closely align with people’s living needs; in order for Hong Kong to develop into a smart city, the Government must vigorously promote the application of digital technologies at the community level and spare no efforts in bridging the digital divide; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to accelerate the construction of community facilities for a smart city in Hong Kong, so as to tie in with the implementation of various policies on smart Hong Kong; furthermore, under the trend of continuous digitalization and intellectualization of various types of public and private services, in a bid to create a barrier-free digital environment in the community, the Government should conduct in-depth studies and analyses on the difficulties of poor and vulnerable groups in facing the digital divide, and put forward response plans, including subsidizing the aforesaid groups to purchase equipment and pay Internet access fees, driving technology professional bodies to promote the application of smart technologies in the community, and setting up education kiosks on over a hundred of digital government initiatives to guide people in using the relevant e-Government services; the Government should also expeditiously improve digital infrastructure, including comprehensively enhancing the functionality of the ‘iAM Smart’</p>	<p>determine the funding amount for different projects, and the means to prevent those organizations which had been granted funding under other funding schemes from submitting duplicate applications to the SIE Fund for the same project. Members also commented that the Administration should require subvented organizations and public service organizations to comply with the web accessibility requirements.</p>

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	<p>platform, developing digital identities for all members of the public in Hong Kong in the long run, and opening up the interface between ‘iAM Smart’ and commercial organizations related to people’s livelihood (including banks and insurance companies); this Council also urges the Government to incorporate a barrier-free digital environment into smart city design and encourage enterprises to provide barrier-free online services; regarding the digital divide faced by various social strata, the Government should make better use of big data by drawing reference from the practice of the Mainland, improving people’s livelihood; this Council also urges the Government as far as possible to enable members of the public to complete the corresponding procedures without visiting government departments in person or with a one-off use of digital technologies, thus achieving ‘one-stop’ service; besides, in respect of promoting a barrier-free digital environment in the community, this Council proposes that the Government should explore the setting up of world-class smart city demonstration communities in Central and the Northern Metropolis, accelerating the building of a smart city community in Hong Kong.</p> <p><i>(The progress report provided by the Administration was circulated to Members under LC Paper No. CB(3)35/2024 dated 12 January 2024.)</i></p>	

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(38)	<p data-bbox="309 228 600 264"><u>15 November 2023</u></p> <p data-bbox="309 315 847 479"><b>Promoting the in-depth integration of culture, sports and tourism to revitalize the tourism industry</b></p> <p data-bbox="309 530 858 2148">That the National 14th Five-Year Plan has established Hong Kong’s ‘eight centres’ positioning, including supporting Hong Kong to develop into an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange; the development of arts and culture, sports and tourism complements and drives each other, and the in-depth integration of culture, sports and tourism is the key to the high-quality and sustainable development of Hong Kong’s tourism industry; the Government has, in the 2023 Policy Address, made a lot of mention of culture and sports development and revitalization of the tourism industry; although the current-term Government has set up the Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau, which is an important step forward in promoting the integration of culture, sports and tourism, it has yet to achieve notable results in terms of the integration of different departments within the Bureau as well as the coordination across bureaux, resulting in the failure to fully tap into the tourism potentials in areas of, among others, cultural and sports events, arts and culture, historical monuments, museums, creative works of film, television and culture, and natural ecology; in this connection, this Council urges that the Government should, in addition to the existing policies,</p>	<p data-bbox="922 228 1394 309"><u>Panel on Economic Development</u></p> <p data-bbox="922 353 1401 2101">Members suggested that the Government should thoroughly examine Hong Kong’s tourism positioning from the perspective of top-level planning and design to sketch out a blueprint for the tourism industry’s future development with a timetable and a roadmap for relevant projects, as well as promoting cross-sectoral collaboration to nurture high-quality development of the tourism industry. Expressing concern about the specific directions and objectives of the Tourism Strategy Committee, members requested the Committee to adopt a problem-oriented approach to explore ways to attract visitors, including examining the reasons for the decrease in their length of stay in Hong Kong. Concern was also raised about the Administration’s measures to help Hong Kong fulfil its role as a core demonstration zone for multi-destination tourism and develop tourism in conjunction with cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. There was also concern about the Administration’s study on Hong Kong’s tourism sector as a source of tax revenue, and the direction of the Government’s and private participation in the development of tourism facilities.</p>

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	<p>adopt measures to promote the in-depth integration of culture, sports and tourism in terms of policy vision, governmental functions and the development of industries; the specific proposals include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="309 528 863 770">(1) setting up a high-level Commission on Strategic Development for Culture, Sports and Tourism to formulate integration strategies;</li> <li data-bbox="309 819 863 1016">(2) establishing an inter-departmental mechanism to coordinate and optimize the use of cultural, sports and tourism resources;</li> <li data-bbox="309 1066 863 1397">(3) collaborating closely with various trades to formulate the Development Blueprint for Hong Kong's Tourism Industry 2.0 as well as incorporating more cultural, sports and tourism elements in the Blueprint;</li> <li data-bbox="309 1447 863 1599">(4) continuing to encourage the trade to develop more in-depth signature cultural, sports and tourism products;</li> <li data-bbox="309 1648 863 2136">(5) making good use of innovation and technology to facilitate the integration of culture, sports and tourism, including introducing 'metaverse ambassadors of culture, sports and tourism' to promote smart tourism and communicate with tourists all over the world through online platforms, so as to</li> </ol>	<p>Members supported the development of different tourism products to attract visitors from different consumer groups by, among others, organizing events like the "Night Vibes Hong Kong" Campaign and the Hong Kong Wine and Dine Festival. Members expressed concern about the Administration's relevant support and enhancement measures for the "Night Vibes Hong Kong" Campaign, the proposal to redevelop Temple Street into a tourist attraction, the application arrangements for Closed Area Permits in connection with the opening up of Sha Tau Kok as a cultural tourism zone, as well as the potential construction of cycle tracks and use of virtual reality technology or other ancillary facilities at special attractions. There was another concern about the Administration's plan to promote Hong Kong's industrial tourism through the Characteristic Local Tourism Incentive Scheme.</p> <p>There were views that, in recent years, the travel patterns of Mainland visitors had changed and they preferred in-depth itineraries to experience Hong Kong's culture and characteristics. Concern was therefore raised about the increase in the amount of subsidy or quota under the forthcoming Characteristic Local Tourism Incentive</p>

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	<p>step up the promotion of Hong Kong;</p> <p>(6) setting performance indicators for visitor participation in cultural and sports events and facilities; and</p> <p>(7) strengthening manpower training for the tourism industry;</p> <p>(8) developing activities that help promote the excellence of traditional Chinese culture overseas; and</p> <p>(9) enhancing visitors' sense of participation through cultural and sports programmes,</p> <p>so as to further promote the synergistic development of culture, sports and tourism, provide visitors with a more diverse range of tourism experiences and unleash Hong Kong's role as a core demonstration zone for multi-destination tourism to attract more high value-added overnight visitors, thereby revitalizing the development of the tourism industry and enabling Hong Kong to develop into a world-class tourism destination in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area; this Council also urges the Government to review afresh the application mechanism of the existing funding schemes for culture and sports, including encouraging the applicants to strengthen cooperation with commercial organizations and</p>	<p>Scheme as compared with the existing Cultural and Heritage Sites Local Tour Incentive Scheme and the time to launch the former. There was also concern about the ability of the trade to cope with the changes brought about by the introduction of new signature tourism products.</p> <p>There was a view that, in recent years, many visitors came to Hong Kong to look for red historical sites related to the War of Resistance. A member therefore supported the establishment of a museum to introduce the history of the War of Resistance. There was a suggestion that the authorities should make good use of Hong Kong's historical and cultural tourism resources to develop historical and heritage tourism and red tourism, so as to attract more Mainland and overseas visitors and strengthen patriotic education at the same time.</p> <p>There was a view that the appeal of Hong Kong laid not in its low prices but in its unique elements. Members therefore supported the Administration's efforts to promote the staging of different signature events and activities and MICE events (i.e. meetings, incentive travels, conventions and exhibitions) in Hong Kong, including holding the Hong Kong Cyclothon and the Hong Kong Fashion Design Week as announced. They considered that such events</p>



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	<p>incorporate tourism elements into the activities they organize so as to promote sustainable and commercialized cultural and sports tourism; this Council also urges the Government to support the design, creation and industry development of cultural and creative tourism products with Hong Kong characteristics; this Council also urges the Government to fully capitalize on Hong Kong's advantages as an international financial centre to actively promote the integration of culture, sports and tourism industries with the capital markets for developing a diversified and high value-added culture, sports and tourism market.</p> <p><i>(Awaiting the progress report provided by the Administration.)</i></p>	<p>could attract more high-spending overnight visitors to Hong Kong, thereby driving the development of related industries and benefiting Hong Kong's economy. Members suggested that the Administration should continue to organize more large-scale sports events, step up publicity and work with relevant departments to attract more business and MICE visitors to Hong Kong.</p> <p>Members urged the Administration to expedite the development of smart tourism so as not to lag behind other regions. There was a suggestion that the Administration should make use of existing technology to facilitate visitors' travel experience. Concern was raised about how the Administration would promote and publicize electronic payment platforms, in particular how it would collaborate with the Mainland to streamline the application procedures for Mainland payment platforms, with a view to enhancing visitors' travel experience. There was a suggestion that the Administration should consider introducing virtual tourism to provide interactive virtual travel experience to attract visitors to Hong Kong by offering previews of attractions and planning of itineraries.</p>

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		<p>Concern was raised about the measures taken by the Administration to attract high-spending overnight visitors and their effectiveness, and the introduction of measures to attract short-haul consumer groups from the Mainland (e.g. encouraging the trade to introduce free bus services to shopping malls and tourist attractions at boundary control points). The Administration was urged to conduct a comprehensive study on the transport ancillary facilities in the vicinity of the Kai Tak Sports Park and Kai Tak Cruise Terminal to improve transport connections in the area.</p> <p>There was concern about assessment by the Administration on the positioning and strategy of the existing tourism products and attractions, including the Hong Kong Disneyland and Ocean Park, and the possible exploration of new markets. Concern was raised about the Administration's coordination of resources to address the current manpower shortage facing the tourism industry and the relevant measures taken in this regard.</p> <p><u>Panel on Home Affairs, Culture and Sports</u></p> <p>When the Panel on Home Affairs, Culture and Sports discussed the "Pop Culture Festival" ("the Festival") on 20</p>

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		<p>March 2023, members urged the Administration to capitalize on the opportunities of organizing the Festival to collaborate with the tourism industry to develop products on cultural tourism, with a view to attracting visitors from the Mainland and overseas. The Administration advised that the Leisure and Cultural Services Department and the Tourism Commission had started discussion on how to promote the Festival from a tourism perspective, including consideration of reserving tickets of some programmes for tourists visiting Hong Kong.</p> <p>When the Panel discussed “Sports policy and promoting development of sports in Hong Kong” on 12 June 2023, members considered that the Administration should capitalize on the cultural and sports resources of Hong Kong to promote tourism, with the aim of enhancing the synergy among them. The Administration advised that the establishment of the Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau would enable the teams responsible for cultural, sports and tourism matters within the Government to have closer liaison with one another and bring forth organic collaboration. In addition, the Government had strengthened the “M” Mark System and Support Packages (“the ‘M’ Mark System”) to encourage</p>

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		<p>the participation of commercial organizations in order to support the development of the major international sports events industry, with a view to further promoting Hong Kong as a centre for major international sports events. The Government expected that more than 10 major international sports events would be held in Hong Kong in 2023-2024, with some new “M” Mark events to be staged for the first time, such as the 2023 FIA World Rallycross Championship of Hong Kong, China – Season Finale.</p> <p>The construction of the Kai Tak Sports Park (“KTSP”) was scheduled for completion at the end of 2024. Given the proximity of KTSP to tourist attractions and facilities, such as the remnants of Lung Tsun Stone Bridge in Kowloon City and the Kai Tak Cruise Terminal, members suggested that the Administration should devise plans to combine relevant sports events with tourist attractions and help the tourism sector develop sports tourism products.</p>
(39)	<p><u>15 November 2023</u></p> <p><b>Taking the lead by the Government to review the outsourcing system</b></p> <p>That in order to fully implement President XI Jinping’s important address on 1 July last year,</p>	<p><u>Panel on Financial Affairs</u></p> <p>The Panel on Financial Affairs has not discussed related issues after the passage of the motion.</p>

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	<p>the Hong Kong SAR Government should be more courageous and adopt more efficient measures to overcome difficulties and forge ahead, so as to enable all citizens in Hong Kong to share more fully and fairly in the fruits of development; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to set a good example by taking the lead to review and reform the outsourcing system, including reviewing the terms of outsourcing service contracts and the assessment criteria for awarding such contracts, strengthening the regulation and monitoring of outsourcing service contracts to further protect the legitimate rights and benefits of outsourced workers, and converting posts with actual needs to permanent posts in the light of the actual situation, as well as, when outsourcing, giving priority to local enterprises which employ local workers and local professionals, so that all local employees remunerated by public funds can earn a reasonable income, lead a decent life with their families, gain work experience and enhance their competitiveness, thus sharing in the fruits of development.</p> <p><i>(The progress report provided by the Administration was circulated to Members under LC Paper No. CB(3)55/2024 dated 18 January 2024.)</i></p>	<p><u>Panel on Manpower</u></p> <p>The Panel on Manpower has not discussed the related issues after the passage of the motion.</p> <p><u>Panel on Public Service</u></p> <p>The Panel on Public Service has not discussed the related issues after the passage of the motion.</p>

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(40)	<p><u>22, 23 and 24 November 2023</u></p> <p><b>Motion debate on the 2023 Policy Address</b></p> <p>That this Council thanks the Chief Executive for his address.</p> <p><i>(Progress report was not sought from the Administration.)</i></p>	—
(41)	<p><u>29 November 2023</u></p> <p><b>Combating cyber fraud crimes on all fronts</b></p> <p>That with the rapidly changing development and application of technologies, cyber fraud has become increasingly rampant with ever-changing modus operandi, and lawbreakers have in recent years committed fraud through various online or digital channels, including instant messaging software, social media platforms and even cryptocurrency trading platforms, which shows that cyber fraud has been expanding continuously in an organized and cross-border manner in tandem with technological advancement; in the face of the rising number of fraud cases, this Council urges the SAR Government to enhance the existing measures for combating cyber fraud, including systematically organizing cooperation among the financial sector, telecommunications, Internet, and technology industries as well as government departments to establish a cross-sectoral collaboration mechanism to better intercept cyber fraud crimes at source through high-technology</p>	<p><u>Panel on Security</u></p> <p>The Panel on Security has not discussed the related issues after the passage of the motion.</p> <p><u>Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting</u></p> <p>The Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting has not discussed related issues after passage of the motion.</p> <p><u>Panel on Financial Affairs</u></p> <p>The Panel on Financial Affairs has not discussed related issues after the passage of the motion.</p>

<b>No.</b>	<b>Date of Council meeting, and subject and wording of motion</b>	<b>Follow-up actions taken by relevant committees of the Council</b>
	<p>means; strengthening cooperation with international law enforcement agencies to apprehend the masterminds behind the scenes and freeze their assets; strengthening the protection of personal information and making good use of the Do-Not-Call Registers to prevent lawbreakers from using personal information to commit cyber fraud; and stepping up anti-fraud education, and joining forces with district organizations to enhance public awareness against cyber fraud and their ability to respond to cyber fraud; at the same time, as the computer systems of some organizations in Hong Kong have been hacked one after another recently, resulting in the leakage of quite a lot of sensitive personal data, thus giving lawbreakers opportunities to use such personal data to commit cyber fraud, the SAR Government should comprehensively examine the cybersecurity risks in Hong Kong, step up the protection measures for cyber systems and formulate a rapid response plan in advance, thereby improving the anti-fraud ‘firewall’ to guard against cyber fraud; this Council also urges the SAR Government to study the formulation of laws and regulations as well as guidelines to require social media platforms to exercise self-regulation by taking the initiative to remove fraudulent advertisements, block fake accounts or accounts suspected of engaging in fraudulent activities, mark suspicious accounts, etc.; this Council also urges the SAR Government to actively consider</p>	

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	<p>changing the telephone numbers of all government departments and public organizations by using ‘1’ as the prefix, and stipulating that telephone numbers prefixed with ‘1’ are only for use by government departments and public organizations, so as to eliminate the fraudulent tactics of ‘Pretend Officials’ and ‘Guess Who’; this Council also urges the SAR Government to assist small and medium enterprises in raising their cybersecurity level and strengthening the protection of important data and customer information to prevent them from becoming targets of attacks by lawbreakers, with a view to reducing the potential risks of cyber fraud; this Council also urges the SAR Government to, by drawing reference from the experience of overseas countries in combating cyber fraud crimes, introduce relevant measures in accordance with the actual situation of Hong Kong; this Council also urges the SAR Government to strengthen cooperation with local banks in collecting and analysing data on the flow of defrauded money, and plug the loopholes in the existing bank account opening system, so as to combat mule accounts; this Council also urges the SAR Government to urge the relevant parties to fulfil their responsibilities and obligations, and form concerted efforts of all parties to combat cyber fraud in that, for example, telecommunications operators should enhance their identification capabilities to intercept fraudulent Voice over</p>	



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	<p>Internet Protocol calls and messages, and banks should also issue risk warnings to high-risk users before they make large-value fund transfers.</p> <p><i>(Awaiting the progress report provided by the Administration.)</i></p>	
(42)	<p><u>29 November 2023</u></p> <p><b>Expediting the implementation of cross-boundary elderly care planning in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area</b></p> <p>That with the rapid development of the country, the quality of life, social security, medical standards and other aspects have continued to improve, and the country has also put emphasis on the development of high-quality elderly care services, leading many Hong Kong people to opt for moving to reside in the Mainland for retirement; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to implement the principles of ‘complementarity of advantages’, ‘portability of welfare benefits’, ‘cross-boundary use of services’ and ‘mutual access of healthcare services’ to improve the existing cross-boundary elderly care planning, including actively developing integrated medical and elderly care services between the Mainland and Hong Kong; allowing ‘Residential Care Vouchers’, ‘Community Care Vouchers’ and ‘Health Care Vouchers’ to be used across the boundary, and providing support services in the Mainland</p>	<p><u>Panel on Welfare Services</u></p> <p>During a number of meetings in the 2023 session, Members had put forward suggestions on various measures to encourage and facilitate elderly persons to retire on the Mainland. The suggestions included enhancing relevant healthcare support; expanding the coverage and scope of the elderly health care voucher; subsidizing medical insurance; providing community care service vouchers; relaxing the absence limit under the Social Security Allowance Scheme; enabling electronic social security payments; launching a trial scheme for short-term stays in Mainland residential care homes; and utilizing big data for improved planning and management of elderly services.</p> <p>The Panel on Welfare Services also conducted a duty visit to Mainland cities of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (“GBA”) from 30 to 31 August 2023 to gain insights into the elderly care services available in GBA.</p>

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	<p>communities of high concentration of Hong Kong people; enhancing the existing cross-boundary elderly care measures and promoting the long-term development of the relevant policies, as well as adopting specific measures to implement the Memorandum of Co-operation on Care for the Elderly signed with the Department of Civil Affairs of Guangdong Province in May 2023, so as to enable more Hong Kong elders to spend their twilight years in the Mainland; this Council also urges the Government to increase the number of residential care homes participating in the Residential Care Services Scheme in Guangdong and review the Portable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme; this Council also urges the Government to make use of market forces to encourage middle-class people with economic capability and the need for elderly care to move to reside in the ‘Continuing Care Retirement Communities’ within the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area; this Council also urges the Government to coordinate the medical insurance arrangements for Hong Kong elders in the Mainland, enhance the training on digital gerontechnology and establish a support system for retirement communities.</p> <p><i>(Awaiting the progress report provided by the Administration.)</i></p>	<p><u>Panel on Health Services</u></p> <p>Members noted the Administration’s plan to extend the coverage of elderly health care vouchers to suitable healthcare institutions in the Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao Greater Bay Area (“GBA”) in 2024, with the target of adding about five additional healthcare institutions as trial service points for the provision of primary healthcare services. Some members expressed concern about the locations of the five healthcare institutions concerned, the status of cooperating with Hong Kong’s medical institutions which provided services in GBA, as well as any difficulties encountered in identifying these institutions. There was also concern that in the long run, whether Hong Kong people residing in the Mainland could, according to the Mainland resident policy, sign contracts with family doctors in the Mainland and use the elderly health care vouchers to pay for medical consultation. Members further enquired whether the Administration would discuss with insurance companies so that the Voluntary Health Insurance Scheme (“VHIS”) would also be applicable to designated hospitals in the Mainland, and explore the possibility of allowing purchase of VHIS</p>

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		<p>plans with elderly health care vouchers.</p> <p>Some members expressed concern about the details of the use of the elderly health care vouchers by Hong Kong residents in Mainland dental institutions, how the Administration would monitor the situation and how to choose the appropriate dental institutions. Concern was also raised on the details of the Administration's plan to discuss with the governments of other GBA cities on the provision of cross-boundary ambulance service for hospital transfer of patients.</p> <p>The Panel on Health Services has decided to conduct a duty visit to the University of Hong Kong-Shenzhen Hospital and hospital(s) of Tier 3 Class A in GBA, with a view to gaining a better understanding of the medical standards, services and facilities of the hospitals concerned, as well as promoting cross-boundary medical cooperation and implementation of the enhancement of the Elderly Health Care Voucher Scheme. The Panel is discussing the specific itinerary and arrangements with the Administration.</p>

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(43)	<p data-bbox="309 228 577 264"><u>6 December 2023</u></p> <p data-bbox="309 318 845 398"><b>Initiating the development of a strong maritime port strategy</b></p> <p data-bbox="309 443 861 1464">That the report to the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China has made strategic plans to ‘develop the marine economy, protect the marine ecological environment, and step up efforts to build China into a strong maritime country’; this Council urges the SAR Government to seize in a timely manner the major opportunity arising from China’s building into a strong maritime country, and engage the industry chain of marine technology innovation to drive the development of a strong maritime port, thereby contributing to the implementation of the Belt and Road maritime strategy; and at the same time, to actively develop maritime-related industries such as shipping and trade, cruise tourism and ecological conservation, so as to build a diversified marine economy with Hong Kong characteristics.</p> <p data-bbox="296 1509 861 1599"><i>(Awaiting the progress report provided by the Administration.)</i></p>	<p data-bbox="922 228 1398 309"><u>Panel on Commerce, Industry, Innovation and Technology</u></p> <p data-bbox="922 353 1404 568">The Panel on Commerce, Industry, Innovation and Technology has not discussed related issues after passage of the motion.</p> <p data-bbox="922 613 1398 694"><u>Panel on Economic Development</u></p> <p data-bbox="922 739 1404 1464">Members suggested that the Administration should step up publicity of the Kai Tak Cruise Terminal (“KTCT”) to help revive the cruise business to attract more visitors to Hong Kong and more international cruise lines to choose Hong Kong as the home port for their cruise ships, thereby further promoting the development of Hong Kong’s tourism industry. There was also concern about the Administration’s plan regarding ship calls of international cruise ships at KTCT next year.</p> <p data-bbox="922 1509 1404 1800">Concerned was raised about the development of the Kwai Tsing Container Terminals, their land use and the formulation of concrete proposals to facilitate the future transformation of their hardware.</p> <p data-bbox="922 1845 1398 1926"><u>Panel on Environmental Affairs</u></p> <p data-bbox="922 1971 1404 2136">The Panel on Environmental Affairs discussed with the Administration the Voluntary Scheme for Phasing Out</p>

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		<p>Personal Care and Cosmetic Products Containing Microbeads and the findings of a baseline survey on the levels of microplastics in the local aquatic environment at the meeting on 15 December 2023. Members suggested the Administration conduct such baseline surveys regularly to monitor the trend of microplastics in the local aquatic environment on a continual basis. The Administration was also requested to step up collaboration with the Mainland authorities in tackling marine refuse problems.</p> <p>At the meeting held on 17 October 2023, when the Administration consulted the Panel on its air quality improvement strategies, Members suggested that the Administration should, among others, ride on the commissioning of the prospective Hong Kong Offshore Liquefied Natural Gas (“LNG”) Terminal to take forward the use of LNG by marine vessels in Hong Kong, with a view to further improving air quality.</p>
(44)	<p><u>6 December 2023</u></p> <p><b>Giving full play to the role of China-capital enterprises to promote Hong Kong’s integration into the overall development of the country</b></p>	<p><u>Panel on Commerce, Industry, Innovation and Technology</u></p> <p>The Panel on Commerce, Industry, Innovation and Technology has not discussed related issues after passage of the motion.</p>

<b>No.</b>	<b>Date of Council meeting, and subject and wording of motion</b>	<b>Follow-up actions taken by relevant committees of the Council</b>
	<p>That the concerted efforts of Hong Kong-invested enterprises, China-capital enterprises and foreign-funded enterprises are required to drive Hong Kong's advance from stability to prosperity; since Hong Kong's return to the motherland, China-capital enterprises have been playing an increasingly important role in the fields of economic development and livelihood services in Hong Kong and serving as an important bridge that drives the common prosperity and development of the Mainland and Hong Kong; China-capital enterprises enjoy the strong support of the motherland and the advantages of operating across geographical areas and regimes, and they are willing and capable of making greater contributions to Hong Kong; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to adopt proactive measures to fully mobilize the initiative of China-capital enterprises, attract more such enterprises to come to Hong Kong for development, and encourage them to actively participate in the development of local major economic and livelihood projects, with a view to further supporting them to assist in the economic and social development of Hong Kong, create strong impetus for the growth of Hong Kong, foster Hong Kong's full participation in the Belt and Road Initiative and promote Hong Kong's better integration into the overall development of the country; this Council also urges the Government to attract more</p>	

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	<p>large-scale central enterprises and state-owned enterprises to set up regional headquarters in Hong Kong in order to drive the development of ‘headquarters economy’.</p> <p><i>(Awaiting the progress report provided by the Administration.)</i></p>	
(45)	<p><u>13 December 2023</u></p> <p><b>Promoting healthy ageing to create a good quality of life for the silver-haired group</b></p> <p>That President XI Jinping has expressed his hope for the Hong Kong SAR Government to earnestly address people’s concerns and difficulties in daily life, including ‘having better care in their twilight years’; the continued ageing of the population in Hong Kong has led to a rise in the elderly dependency ratio and exerted tremendous pressure on Hong Kong’s healthcare system, welfare policies, public resources, etc.; in order to meet the needs of the silver-haired group, this Council urges the SAR Government to draw reference from international experience and proactively promote healthy ageing, so as to address the problem of an ageing population; the measures include raising people’s awareness of planning for a silver-haired life for their future in order to realize ageing in place; making good use of gerontechnology to enhance the quality of life and self-care abilities of the silver-haired group and improve their social and mental health; promoting services for preventing and delaying disabilities, so as to enable the silver-haired</p>	<p><u>Panel on Welfare Services</u></p> <p>The Panel on Welfare Services had not discussed the subject matter in the 2023 session.</p> <p><u>Panel on Health Services</u></p> <p>No follow-up action by the Panel on Health Services.</p> <p><u>Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting</u></p> <p>The Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting has not discussed related issues after passage of the motion.</p> <p><u>Panel on Housing</u></p> <p>When discussing measures to facilitate inter-generation harmony and the mobility needs of elderly residents in public rental housing (“PRH” estates”) under the Hong Kong Housing Authority (“HA”), members of the Panel on Housing urged the Administration to provide more indoor elderly fitness facilities/equipment and suggested that under-utilized indoor common areas be retrofitted with elderly fitness</p>

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	<p>group to maintain self-reliance and continue to give full play to their strengths and contribute to society; and developing silver-hair industries to enhance the quality of life of the silver-haired group, thereby creating an age-friendly social environment for Hong Kong; this Council also urges the SAR Government to extend the ‘Let’s Go Well-being—Well-being Design Pretest’ to all public housing estates in the territory, so as to enhance the sense of happiness of the silver-haired group, and conduct a study on lowering the eligible age for applying for the HKMC Annuity Plan to below 60, so as to ensure that the life of the silver-haired group after retirement will be more secure; this Council also urges the SAR Government to make reference to the Plan for the Development of National Undertakings for the Aged and Elderly Care Service System during the 14th Five-Year Plan Period to promote healthy ageing.</p> <p><i>(Awaiting the progress report provided by the Administration.)</i></p>	<p>facilities/equipment. Members considered that the security staff of domestic blocks at PRH estates might be more aware of the routine of elderly residents in their blocks than social workers. They called for more training in this regard for security staff so as to offer assistance to singleton/doubleton elderly households proactively, and suggested that HA might also leverage the capabilities of non-government organizations in providing services for elderly households in PRH estates.</p>