

**Minutes of the
Social Welfare Advisory Committee (SWAC) Meeting**

**14 February 2017 (Tuesday) at 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 4, G/F, Central Government Offices**

Present

Mr Vincent LO Wing-sang (Chairman)
Ms Sylvia CHAN May-kuen
Dr Gary CHENG Faat-ting
Dr Crystal CHENG Lai-ling
Mr CHUGH, Manohar Thakurdas
Dr Roy CHUNG Chi-ping
Mr Laurence HO Hoi-ming
Mr Anthony KWAN Wai-ming
Mr Hansen LEE Hong-kong
Dr Annissa LUI Wai-ling
Prof Steven NGAI Sek-yum
Ms Cindy PUN Siu-fung
Dr Janice TSANG Wing-hang
Dr Loretta YAM Yin-chun
Ms Sania YAU Sau-wai
Ms Amarantha YIP Yun-wan
Mr Kelvin MA (Secretary)

In Attendance

Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB)

Miss Annie TAM	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare (PSLW)
Miss Leonia TAI	Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare)1 (DS(W)1)
Mr David LEUNG	Commissioner for Rehabilitation (C for R)
Mr Kenneth CHENG	Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare)1 (PAS(W)1)

Social Welfare Department (SWD)

Ms Carol YIP Director of Social Welfare (DSW)

Planning Department (PlanD)

Ms Amy CHEUNG Assistant Director of Planning /
Territorial (AD/T)

Miss Winnie LAU Chief Town Planner / Strategic Planning
(CTP/SP)

Miss Ivy CHU Town Planner / Strategic Planning 10
(TP/SP10)

Absent with apologies

Mr IP Wai-ming
Ms Christina Maisenne LEE
Mr Edmond LEE Man-bun
Mr Laurence LI Lu-jen
Ms Anthea LO Wing-sze
Mr Daryl NG Win-kong

**Discussion Item 1: Public engagement on Hong Kong 2030+:
Towards a Planning Vision and Strategy
Transcending 2030**

Members were invited to provide comments on the paper on “Hong Kong 2030+: Towards a Planning Vision and Strategy Transcending 2030” (Hong Kong 2030+). Members asked the following questions/offered the following comments –

- (a) Areas should be reserved for integrated elderly services in view of the ageing population;

- (b) More land for “Government, Institution or Community” uses should be required to provide institutional care services for the elderly. Stakeholders’ views on reclamation for the East Lantau Metropolis and resumption of brownfield sites in the New Territories should be reflected in the public engagement report;
- (c) The proposal of setting up a high-level steering structure within the Government would be useful to clarify the bureaux and departments to be involved and its mode of operation;
- (d) The interface between Hong Kong 2030+ and the Elderly Services Programme Plan (ESPP) being formulated and the new Hong Kong Rehabilitation Programme Plan (RPP) to be developed;
- (e) Supporting facilities for welfare facilities, such as parking spaces, should be duly considered in the planning process;
- (f) The planning for rehabilitation and other welfare facilities should be incorporated into public rental housing (PRH) estates;
- (g) Elderly and rehabilitation facilities should be located near medical facilities for better service interface;
- (h) The facilities in some old PRH estates required upgrading to facilitate the daily life of elderly persons. To promote inter-generational harmony, the younger generations could be encouraged to move into these estates;
- (i) It would be worthwhile to consider developing islands and connecting them by reclamation. An “elderly village” could be built on such newly reclaimed land to free up some land in the urban areas for other uses;
- (j) All bureaux and departments should take into account the concept of “universal design” in their policy-making and everyday operation;

- (k) The Government should develop a small proportion of land on the periphery of country parks with relatively low ecological and public enjoyment value for such purposes as public housing and elderly homes;
- (l) Stakeholder engagement would be vital to the implementation of the recommendations under Hong Kong 2030+;
- (m) Consideration should be given to promoting a child-friendly and family-friendly city;
- (n) Respect for the elderly should be cultivated among the younger generations, and families had an important role to play in promoting “ageing in place”; and
- (o) Development opportunities and career prospects in individual industries should be made clear to young persons.

2. The Government gave the following response –

- (a) Hong Kong 2030+ had examined the “big picture” by taking into account the global trend, regional context and development in neighbouring cities, and these considerations were taken into account in mapping out the development directions for Hong Kong;
- (b) New requirements could be incorporated into the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines (HKPSG) as appropriate in accordance with the established updating procedures;
- (c) Young persons were engaged through various channels as part of the public engagement exercise on Hong Kong 2030+;
- (d) Over 100 public engagement events had been arranged for Hong Kong 2030+ and different voices in the community would be duly reflected in the public engagement report;
- (e) The idea of setting up a high-level steering structure was under contemplation;

- (f) The Government would consider the need for inter-generational and family support when planning for housing developments to facilitate “ageing in place”;
- (g) It was worth exploring ways to better utilise public spaces such as spaces under flyovers and plazas to facilitate social interactions;
- (h) The Government proposed to develop artificial islands in the ecologically less sensitive central waters. Feasibility of reclamation in other areas would need to be critically reviewed; and
- (i) While the Hong Kong 2030+ study was expected to be completed in 2018, it did not signify the end of the planning process as planning should be a continuous exercise.

Discussion Item 2: Briefing on the welfare-related initiatives in the 2017 Policy Address

3. Members were invited to provide comments on the paper on the welfare-related initiatives in the 2017 Policy Address. Members asked the following questions/offered the following comments –

- (a) Early intervention with the involvement of medical professionals, social workers and schools could perform a preventive function. It would be useful to provide social work services in kindergartens and make early contact with parents;
- (b) The raising of the eligibility age for elderly Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) from 60 to 65 may affect the prospective recipients;
- (c) How the Government would support elderly persons living alone and families of elderly couples, and how “mild impairment” was defined;
- (d) In implementing the Pilot Scheme on Residential Care Service Voucher for the Elderly (RCS Voucher), measures should be taken to ensure the service quality;

- (e) The Government should expedite the progress of implementation of the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses (Special Scheme) and retain the trainees under the Navigation Scheme for Young Persons in Care Services in the welfare sector;
- (f) A holistic elderly housing policy should be put in place to encourage “ageing in place”;
- (g) The annuity scheme being explored in the context of retirement protection should be run by a public authority;
- (h) Intensive and multidisciplinary services should be provided to elderly patients to facilitate their rehabilitation;
- (i) An electronic patient record sharing system comprising not only records of public hospitals but also those kept by private doctors and any other records of the patients’ social behaviours should be established;
- (j) The service user to staff ratio in private elderly homes should be improved;
- (k) The scope of the Medical Care Voucher should be expanded to cover interest classes for active ageing purpose;
- (l) Given the increasing number of ethnic minorities, the Government should engage them more and treat them as valuable social assets; and
- (m) To enable women to join or return to the labour force, foreign domestic helpers should be better trained on their child care and homework tutoring skills.

4. The Government gave the following response –

- (a) The raising of the eligible age for elderly CSSA would not affect ill-bodied persons who were eligible for CSSA;
- (b) The Government had in place short-stay transitional care services and other support for discharged elderly patients and their carers;

- (c) The implementation of the expansion, redevelopment and development projects of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) had indeed been expedited under the Special Scheme. However, each project had its own technical issues involving statutory and administrative procedures under the purviews of different departments. The Special Scheme was intended to provide targeted assistance to the applicant NGOs;
- (d) The Government had been actively identifying suitable sites both under and outside the Special Scheme to meet the demand for residential care services for the elderly;
- (e) The public and stakeholders had been extensively consulted in the preparation of the ESPP. When the ESPP was completed, the Government would proceed with the conversion of the new requirements into the HKPSG;
- (f) It might be a prerequisite to align the records within the welfare sector, say, those kept by SWD and NGOs, before exploring their interface with medical records;
- (g) Importation of labour would only be considered on the premise that the interests of the local labour force be safeguarded; and
- (h) It might not be practical to expect foreign domestic helpers to assume a tutoring role in home settings. Parents could consider making use of the after-school support services funded by SWD.