Motion on
"Expediting the promotion of smart city development"
moved by Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok
at the Council meeting of 4 July 2018

Motion as amended by Hon Christopher CHEUNG, Hon Tony TSE, Hon Alvin YEUNG, Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT and Hon Charles Peter MOK

That, to catch up with the development of the era of intelligence, the Administration has made smart city as one of the four major areas of focused development of innovation and technology in Hong Kong and released the Smart City Blueprint for Hong Kong in December 2017, mapping out the policies and measures to be implemented in the next five years in six areas, namely smart mobility, smart living, smart environment, smart people, smart government and smart economy; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to proactively allocate resources to perfect various policies and ancillary measures, so as to expedite the promotion of smart city development; the relevant measures include facilitating the research and development and application of innovation and technology, upgrading the technological infrastructure of Hong Kong, promoting the intellectualization of infrastructure and green architecture, stepping up the promotion of innovation in financial technology, facilitating the opening of data by public and private organizations for development and application, setting up a platform for sharing big data, making optimal use of innovation and technology for improvement of people's daily living, as well as developing a low-carbon green and smart community, with a view to fostering the sustainable development of Hong Kong and facilitating the people in leading a quality life; this Council also urges the Government to strengthen communication and cooperation with various sectors, especially professionals, to avoid working behind closed doors, and provide small and medium enterprises with financial assistance and support; to expedite the promotion of smart city development, the Government should also:

(1)   conduct a comprehensive review of policies and regulations on elderly care and promote the application of gerontechnology, so as to upgrade the quality of elderly care services and cope with the trend of population ageing in the future;

(2)   expeditiously enact legislation on the Internet of Things to deal with problems associated with privacy, data security, etc., so as to protect public interest;

(3)   make use of big data to promote demand-led transport planning, including regular collection of information on vehicular journeys by the Government for analysis of the distribution of traffic demands and travelling patterns of commuters in Hong Kong, so as to make planning of more accurate public transport services that meet long-term demands;

(4)   enhance the amount and types of data provided on the data.gov.hk website, draw up a timetable for opening of data, and establish an open and transparent platform for industries and the public to reflect their needs for information and data, so as to expand the database;

(5)   provide innovation and technology start-ups with policy support and review the existing legislation and regulations to remove barriers for such enterprises; and

(6)   improve government procurement policies to give priority to using products and services researched and developed by local innovation and technology companies;

moreover, this Council urges the Government:

(7)   in respect of smart mobility, practically ameliorating such problems as traffic congestion, shortage of parking spaces, delayed and lost trips of public transport, etc.; encouraging the industry to introduce an intelligent information system to provide real-time parking vacancy information of private car parks, and conducting a study on using concessions or legislative measures to incentivize private car parks to share data on vacant parking spaces, so that drivers can access the relevant information;

(8)   in respect of smart living, expeditiously perfecting various infrastructural facilities of a smart city, including further raising the speed of WiFi services in public places and enhancing the security in using such services; conducting a study on the introduction of electronic business registration ('eBR') apart from electronic identity ('eID'); and stepping up the development of smart healthcare and smart elderly care to perfect the healthcare and elderly care services in Hong Kong;

(9)   in respect of smart environment, promoting optimal use of green smart technologies to practise a low-carbon and energy-efficient life and perfect waste disposal, and proactively conducting a study on more effective use of recovered resources to effect waste-to-energy and waste-to-treasure proposals, including integrating innovation and technology with development of green industries or 'light recycling

industry', so as to promote the development of the whole green industrial chain as well as the application, research and development of relevant technologies;

(10)   in respect of smart people, to tie in with the global trend of education, further adding elements of arts to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics ('STEM') education, turning it into Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics ('STEAM') education, and allocating additional resources to training STEAM teachers and supporting the promotion of STEAM education in schools; stepping up efforts in promoting the teaching of programming and coding, and making programming and coding a compulsory subject in primary and secondary schools, so as to nurture talents of innovation and technology at their early age; enhancing on-the-job training and retraining of employees to support Hong Kong employees in learning, grasping and applying innovation and technology; streamlining the application and administrative procedures relating to the Postdoctoral Hub and Internship Programme, and shortening the time of processing funding, so as to encourage the industry to hire more professionals; and strengthening digital support for children from families with financial needs, the elderly and the disadvantaged, so as to eliminate the 'digital divide' and foster digital inclusion;

(11)   in respect of smart government, completing the establishment of Common Spatial Data Infrastructure ('CSDI') by 2020, including expediting the development and implementation of various applications and services of a smart city as well as enhancing city management, so as to achieve various great visions of a smart city; strengthening, improving and promoting digital government services, including online tax return filing, payment, licence renewal, etc.; and stepping up training to enhance the understanding and application of technology by the civil service, such as making better use of the Common Operating Platform for Emergency Management by government departments;

(12)   on smart economy, in line with the development strategy of the Outline of the 13th Five-Year Plan for the National Economic and Social Development of the People's Republic of China, the Belt and Road Initiative and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area ('the Bay Area'), promoting industrialization and re-industrialization of Hong Kong's achievements in scientific research; strengthening global support to assist industries in developing businesses in the Mainland and world markets; fostering the development of the innovation and technology industry through tax concessions and other measures; promoting more venture capital and technological service industries; fostering incubation

of start-ups of patented technologies; and applying, transforming and perfecting the intellectual property rights regime, so as to establish a market with demand for and supply of innovative technologies and products; and

(13)   proactively promoting the development of a smart city cluster in the Bay Area, including enhancing promotion of the development of sandboxes for financial technology, medical science and technology, and educational technology in the region; speeding up the ground breaking and application of new-generation information technologies such as artificial intelligence, quantum information, mobile communications, Internet of Things, blockchain, etc. in the region; expediting the establishment of a sharing platform for big data, as well as strengthening the mutual access and flow of people, goods, services, capital and information in the region;

this Council also urges the Government to, in the course of implementing the above measures, extensively collect views from stakeholders straddling different sectors, make optimal use of the existing technologies, enhance public-private partnership, encourage local research and development of advanced smart city technologies, and be genuinely people-oriented; at the same time, as the development of a smart city involves large-scale data collection, this Council urges the Government to increase the transparency of smart city public-private partnership projects, formulate a comprehensive policy on data management and open data to enhance civic participation and accountability of governance, and review and update the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance to strengthen the regulation of the collection, processing as well as use of personal data and devise information security standards, so as to strike a balance between promotion of technology and protection of people's personal privacy.