

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. CB(2)1616/20-21  
(These minutes have been  
seen by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/WS

**Panel on Welfare Services**

**Minutes of meeting**  
**held on Monday, 21 June 2021, at 11:00 am**  
**in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex**

**Members present** : Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, SBS, JP (Chairman)  
Hon YIU Si-wing, BBS (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP  
Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP  
Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH  
Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding  
Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH  
Dr Hon Pierre CHAN  
Hon LUK Chung-hung, JP  
Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai  
Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun, MH, JP

**Members absent** : Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, SBS, JP  
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP  
Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH

**Member attending** : Hon SHIU Ka-fai, JP

**Public Officers attending** : Items III and IV  
Mr HO Kai-ming, JP  
Under Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Item III

Mr Nick AU YEUNG Lik  
Deputy Head, Human Resources Planning and Poverty  
Co-ordination Unit

Ms Reddy NG Wai-lan, JP  
Principal Economist (3)  
Office of the Government Economist

Mr LAU Kwok-shun  
Assistant Commissioner for Census and Statistics  
(Economic 1)  
Census and Statistics Department

Item IV

Mr KOK Che-leung  
Deputy Director of Social Welfare (Services)  
Social Welfare Department

Ms Barbara CHU Wing-chee  
Assistant Director (Planning and Development)  
Social Welfare Department

**Clerk in  
attendance** : Ms Maisie LAM  
Chief Council Secretary (2) 3

**Staff in  
attendance** : Ms Catherina YU  
Senior Council Secretary (2) 3

Mr Roger CHUNG  
Council Secretary (2) 3

Miss Alison HUI  
Legislative Assistant (2) 3

Mr William LEE  
Legislative Assistant (2) 8

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**I. Information paper(s) issued since the last meeting**

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1141/20-21(01) and CB(2)1197/20-21(01)]

Members noted that the following papers had been issued since the last meeting:

- (a) letter dated 26 May 2021 from Mr LUK Chung-hung concerning the roles and responsibilities of teachers with respect to the procedures for preventing child abuse; and
- (b) the Administration's response to issues of concern raised in the above letter from Mr LUK Chung-hung.

**II. Items for discussion at the next meeting**

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1178/20-21(01) and (02)]

Items for discussion at the July regular meeting

2 Members agreed to discuss the subjects "Drug management at residential care homes" and "Review on enhancement of the Lump Sum Grant Subvention System" at the next meeting scheduled for 12 July 2021.

Schedule of regular meetings between August and October 2021

3 Members noted the President's direction in respect of the Council meetings to be held from 21 July to 20 October 2021 as set out in LC Paper No. CB(3)618/2021, with a summer break fell between the two Council meetings scheduled for 21 July and 18 August 2021. In view of the above arrangement and having taken account the practice of the current legislative session that the Panel would hold its regular meeting on the second Monday of each month, the Chairman suggested and members agreed that the Panel would hold regular meetings on 13 September and 11 October 2021.

**III. Analysis of poverty situation in Hong Kong in 2019**

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1178/20-21(03) and (04),  
CB(2)1172/20-21(01) and CB(2)1207/20-21(01)]

4 At the invitation of the Chairman, Under Secretary for Labour and Welfare ("USLW") briefed members on the major findings of the analysis of poverty situation in Hong Kong in 2019 based on the poverty line analytical framework formulated by the Commission on Poverty ("CoP"),

details of which were set out in the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(2)1178/20-21(03)).

5 Members noted the updated background brief prepared by the Legislative Council ("LegCo") Secretariat (LC Paper No. CB(2)1178/20-21(04)) and two submissions from Society for Community Organization and Hong Kong Unison Limited respectively (LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1172/20-21(01) and CB(2)1207/20-21(01)) on the subject under discussion.

#### Time required for compiling poverty situation reports

6 Mr Wilson OR said that there was criticism about the time lag in releasing the poverty situation reports as the report released in the current year only provided the poverty statistics of the previous year. It was even more undesirable that the Administration arranged to brief the findings of the analysis of poverty situation in 2019 six months after the release of the relevant report. He suggested that interim poverty situation report should be published every six months to keep the community abreast of the latest poverty situation. Pointing out that the Quarterly Report on General Household Survey for January to March 2021 had revealed that the median monthly domestic household income ("MMDHI") (excluding Chinese New Year bonus/double pay) had decreased from \$27,300 in the first quarter ("Q1") of 2020 to \$25,400 in Q1 of 2021, Dr CHENG Chung-tai expressed concern that the Administration's paper on the poverty situation in 2019 could not reflect the negative impact of the coronavirus disease 2019 ("COVID-19") epidemic on the grass roots.

7 Principal Economist (3) ("PE(3)) explained that the drawing up of the poverty line thresholds by household size had to be based on the annual statistics on monthly household income data obtained from the General Household Surveys ("GHS") conducted by the Census and Statistics Department ("C&SD"), which would only be fully available around March/April of the following year. It then took some time for C&SD to identify if there were any discrepancies between the GHS data and the administrative records from relevant bureaux/departments for the compilation of income data for the administration to conduct detailed analyses. For instance, some GHS respondents might choose not to reveal whether they were recipients of some cash assistance schemes provided by the Administration, such as the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance ("CSSA"), due to the "stigma" effect. Hence, C&SD would need to carry out imputation of CSSA households and the corresponding payments in the GHS database with reference to the administrative records of the Social Welfare Department ("SWD") in order to obtain more comprehensive

figures of CSSA payments received by households. It also took time to conduct in-depth analyses of the poverty situation in Hong Kong based on various socio-economic characteristics of the poor households and persons living therein. The Administration would aim to release the Hong Kong Poverty Situation Report 2020 in the fourth quarter of 2021.

### Measuring poverty

8 Citing the examples that households with minor children would have a heavier financial burden of supporting the dependants and that housing expenses of households residing in private rental housing would be much greater than those residing in public rental housing ("PRH") units, the Chairman considered that expenditure patterns of households should be taken into account when setting a poverty line. She enquired whether there was any international standard for the setting of poverty lines.

9 PE(3) said that there was no single standard in the international arena for the setting of poverty lines. Two of the mainstream approaches would be based on the concept of "absolute poverty" or "relative poverty". Given that Hong Kong was a mature and developed economy, the first-term CoP decided to adopt the concept of "relative poverty" in setting the poverty line after thorough discussions. This was consistent with current international practice of many developed economies, such as those within the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the European Union. The setting of the poverty line at 50% of MMDHI had taken into account that a considerable number of economies also set their poverty lines by anchoring to such percentage of the median household income, and hence the poverty statistics compiled could be considered broadly comparable to those using a similar methodology. It should also be noted that while the core analytical framework adopted by CoP focused on the situation after recurrent cash policy intervention, the impact of means-tested in-kind benefits such as PRH provision on the poverty situation had been evaluated. To better examine the situation of households at different levels of poverty risk, there were also supplementary analyses on the situation of at-risk-of-poverty households with income below 60% of the pre-intervention MMDHI. The Chairman called on the Administration to enrich the contents of the executive summaries of poverty situation reports in future to better reflect the reports concerned.

10 The Chairman enquired about the poverty situation of Hong Kong in comparison with other places. PE(3) advised that taking the poverty rates as of late as a reference, the poverty rates of the United States (17.8%) and Korea (16.7%) were higher than that of Hong Kong which stood at 15.8% after taking into account recurrent cash measures, whereas the poverty rates

of Italy (13.9%), Australia (12.4%), the United Kingdom (11.7%), New Zealand (10.9%), the European Union (10.2%) and France (8.5%) were lower than that of Hong Kong. In response to the Chairman's follow-up enquiry, PE(3) advised that after taking into account all selected measures (i.e. recurrent cash, non-recurrent cash and means-tested in-kind benefits), the poverty rate of Hong Kong was 9.2% in 2019.

11 Dr CHENG Chung-tai opined that the poverty line, which was set at 50% of MMDHI before policy intervention by household size, failed to reflect the up-to-date genuine poverty situation of some groups precisely. For instance, according to the Quarterly Report on General Household Survey for January to March 2021, the number of unemployed sub-degree holders and unemployed degree holders (and the corresponding unemployment rate) had respectively increased from 13 500 (5.5%) in Q1 of 2020 to 20 600 (8.0%) in Q1 of 2021 and from 39 100 (3.0%) in Q1 of 2020 to 58 500 (4.7%) in Q1 of 2021. The Chairman asked whether there were other indicators in addition to the poverty line for the Administration to monitor the poverty situation and identify the needy groups in a timely manner. Noting from paragraph 14 of the Administration's paper that CoP would explore feasible enhancement measures to improve the dimensions of analysis and data collection so as to enrich the poverty line analysis, Mr POON Siu-ping sought elaboration from the Administration in this regard.

12 USLW explained that the major functions of the poverty line and the analytical framework set by CoP were to facilitate continuous monitoring of the poverty situation and assess the effectiveness of various policy initiatives in terms of poverty alleviation through regular data collection and analyses. The Administration would continue to listen to the views of the community and keep the application of the analytical framework of the poverty line under review. In response to the worsening of the economy since the second half of 2019 and the COVID-19 epidemic, the Administration had launched a series of one-off relief measures, amounted to over \$300 billion including various measures under the Anti-epidemic Fund. The effects of selected policy intervention would be reflected in the poverty statistics for 2020.

13 While appreciating that all selected measures had alleviated 849 100 persons out of poverty in 2019, Mr LUK Chung-hung said that the size of poor population and the poverty rate under the pre-intervention scenario (i.e. 1 490 700 persons and 21.4%) was alarming. In his view, adopting the concept of "relative poverty" in setting the poverty line would give rise to the perception of unfairness from some quarters of the poor population. The Deputy Chairman noted that under the pre-intervention (purely hypothetical

assumption) scenario, the poverty rate in 2019 went up distinctly by 1.0 percentage point over 2018 to 21.4%. He asked the reason why the poverty rate that only took into account recurrent cash measures still rose by 0.9 percentage point in 2019 to 15.8%, while the taking into account of all selected measures had edged down the poverty rate by 0.1 percentage point from 2018 to 9.2%. PE(3) explained that in response to worsening economic conditions in 2019, the Administration had rolled out a number of one-off counter-cyclical relief measures, such as the provision of \$4,000 to eligible persons under the Caring and Sharing Scheme and the provision of one-off extra allowance to recipients of social security payments, Working Family Allowance ("WFA") and Work Incentive Transport Subsidy. The reduction in poverty rate after taking into account all selected measures showed that these one-off measures did help relieve the impact of economic recession on grass-roots families and play a role in poverty alleviation.

14 Mr KWOK Wai-keung said that as many people relied on their assets to generate income, analysis of changes in assets since the COVID-19 epidemic should be conducted to identify the impact of the epidemic on the wealth gap. Holding the view that investment income constituted a considerable amount of income for some middle-class households, Mr LUK Chung-hung was concerned about whether the data of investment income could be accurately collected in GHS. He suggested that the Administration could conduct anonymous surveys to collect information on investment gains of well-off households.

15 Assistant Commissioner for Census and Statistics (Economic 1) ("ACCS(E1)") advised that since the value of assets owned by individual households or individuals was highly sensitive data, it was technically difficult for C&SD to collect such data through GHS. At present, household income data collected in GHS covered household members' income from assets (e.g. regularly received rents and dividends) but not the increase in the value of household members' assets. C&SD had tried to collect data on household assets in 2012 but information so collected was unreliable as many respondents were reluctant to disclose information about their asset. To make up current analytical framework's limitation of not taking assets into account, supplementary analysis had been conducted since 2017 to identify elderly persons who were "income-poor, owning property of certain value". Mr KWOK Wai-keung opined that efforts should be made to collect information on the reduction in the value of household members' assets for measuring poverty. As the assets of many households had diminished during the economic downturn, they might no longer resist in providing the information.

16 The Chairman, Mr Wilson OR and Mr Vincent CHENG called on the Administration to provide breakdowns of the poverty situations of different social groups, including ethnic minorities ("EMs"), new arrivals, women and youths, to facilitate the formulation of policies targeted at specific groups. In response to Mr Vincent CHENG's enquiry about the latest poverty rate of EMs, PE(3) and ACCS(E1) advised that data for analyzing the poverty situation of EMs, such as the size of the poor population and their demographic and socio-economic characteristics by selected ethnic groups, could only be collected from Population Censuses/By-Censuses. The 2021 Population Census would commence in June 2021 and it was expected that the corresponding data for analysis of the poverty situation of EMs would be available in 2022-2023.

#### Poverty alleviation and support for the disadvantaged

17 Citing a recent article by Prof Nelson CHOW, Dr CHENG Chung-tai remarked that the Administration had no determination to address the issues of disparity between the rich and the poor. Mr POON Siu-ping opined that while the Administration had allocated more resources to support the disadvantaged in recent years, the poverty alleviation policies were not effective. He pointed out that there was a widening of the disparity between the rich and the poor as indicated by the Gini coefficient and it was expected that there would be a further deterioration in the poverty situation due to the epidemic. He asked whether the Administration would formulate targeted measures to address the youth poverty situation as suggested by Society for Community Organization in its submission, such as providing training support for grass-roots youths. Mr Wilson OR considered that the Administration had failed to direct the resources at supporting the needy groups. Noting that there was a continuous rise in recurrent government expenditure on social welfare, which was estimated to be \$93.9 billion in 2020-2021, the Deputy Chairman was of the view that resources for poverty alleviation should be used more effectively to provide targeted relief for different groups of poor population (e.g. elderly and EMs). Citing the poverty alleviation approach adopted by the Mainland as a reference, he urged the Administration to, in addition to providing cash benefits, assist the needy groups to achieve self-reliance so that they could escape from poverty. Mr LUK Chung-hung said that the Administration should follow the Mainland's approach to explore new economic opportunities and promote industry versatility, particularly industries which Hong Kong enjoyed a competitive edge, so as to create more employment opportunities to alleviate youth poverty.



18 USLW explained that the Mainland adopted the concept of "absolute poverty" which identified individuals who could not meet a level of minimum subsistence or basic needs as poor. It should also be noted that the great variation of the poverty situations between the well-off cities and the poverty-stricken areas in the Mainland would make the effects of the Mainland's poverty alleviating measures more pronounced. As for Hong Kong, the poverty line was set based on the concept of "relative poverty", whereas the CSSA Scheme continued its function as the safety net for those who could not support themselves financially for meeting their basic needs.

Admin 19. USLW further advised that a series of time-limited measures had been introduced to alleviate the financial difficulties faced by the grass roots under the epidemic, such as disregarding the cash value of insurance policies of able-bodied CSSA applicants under the Special Scheme of Assistance to the Unemployed, reducing the working hour requirements of WFA and relaxing the asset limits of the Short-term Food Assistance Service Projects . On the issue of youth poverty, the Greater Bay Area Youth Employment Scheme implemented in January 2021 aimed to encourage and support young people to work and pursue their careers in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area. The Employees Retraining Board had been providing a number of training courses to meet the changing needs of the employment market. At the request of Mr POON Siu-ping, USLW undertook to advise in writing the increase in the number of applications for CSSA since the implementation of the time-limited arrangement in April 2021 to disregard the cash value of insurance policies of able-bodied CSSA applicants.

Admin 20. Mr Michael TIEN noted that being a recurrent cash measure, Old Age Living Allowance ("OALA") had lifted around 150 000 persons out of poverty and reduced the overall poverty rate by 2.2 percentage point in 2019. Given the notable impact yielded by OALA in poverty alleviation, he was gravely concerned that the Administration had yet come up with a timetable for implementing the livelihood initiative announced by the Chief Executive in January 2020 concerning the merging of the Normal and Higher OALA on the ground that it had to reassess the financial implications concerned. USLW explained that since the above measure would involve significant recurrent expenditure, the timing of its implementation had to be reassessed. The Administration would announce the assessment outcome at an appropriate juncture. Mr Michael TIEN requested the Administration to advise in writing the recurrent expenditure for implementing the measure and the estimated reduction in the overall and elderly poverty rates that could be brought about by the measure.

21 Mr Vincent CHENG enquired about the targeted measures in place to relieve the unemployment or under-employment situation of those industries which were hit harder by the epidemic, including the tourism industry and the convention and exhibition industry. Mr KWOK Wai-keung said that many people who worked in these industries had been unemployed for a long time and were in debt. Given that some of these industries might take years to get back to their pre-epidemic normal, he considered that the Administration should conduct surveys on the long-term unemployed persons and analyze the structural changes in poverty situation since the outbreak of COVID-19 in order to plan ahead to tackle poverty. The Chairman sought information on the industries the employees of which had experienced unemployment since the outbreak of COVID-19.

22. USLW advised that the recovery path of certain sectors such as tourism and aviation would be bumpy due to the adverse impact of the COVID-19 epidemic on both the global and local economies. The Administration had rolled out a series of measures to support these industries. Deputy Head, Human Resources Planning and Poverty Co-ordination Unit supplemented that under the Anti-epidemic Fund, the Job Creation Scheme had created around 30 000 time-limited jobs. As announced in the 2021-2022 Budget, a new round of Job Creation Scheme would be launched to create around 30 000 additional time-limited jobs. This would help relieve the unemployment situation caused by the epidemic.

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23. Expressing concern about the effectiveness of the Job Creation Scheme to address the unemployment situation of different population groups, Mr Wilson OR requested the Administration to advise in writing on the number of time-limited jobs created under the Scheme which had been filled and the number of women and EMs employed under the Scheme. The Chairman opined that the Administration should make reference to the poverty statistics of specific groups in the creation of the time-limited jobs. USLW undertook to relay the views of members to the Civil Service Bureau for consideration. It should however be noted that there would not be any requirements on the age, gender and ethnicity of the openings concerned.

24 Mr Vincent CHENG shared the concern raised by Hong Kong Unison Limited in its submission that some EMs had faced discrimination during the epidemic and had difficulties in securing employment. He called on the Administration to strengthen the employment support for EMs. In this connection, he asked how far the job matching services provided by the Labour Department had assisted EMs in seeking employment. USLW advised that the Labour Department had commissioned two non-governmental organizations ("NGOs") to implement the Racial Diversity Employment Programme to provide one-stop employment

services for EMs in a case management approach.

25 The Chairman and the Deputy Chairman was concerned that there would be a reduction in the actual amount of resources earmarked for helping the poor population if the administrative cost for implementing poverty alleviating measures, in particular the new initiatives, was hefty. USLW assured members that the Administration would strive to control the administrative expenses through redeployment of manpower resources for implementing new measures as far as practicable.

#### **IV. Planning for social welfare facilities**

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1178/20-21(05), (06) and CB(2)1208/20-21(01)]

26 At the invitation of the Chairman, USLW briefed members on the Administration's strategy to identify suitable sites or premises for the provision of more welfare services, and its arrangement on the provision of welfare services in new development projects, details of which were set out in the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(2)1178/20-21(05)).

27 Members noted the updated background brief prepared by the LegCo Secretariat (LC Paper No. CB(2)1178/20-21(06)) and a submission from Concerning Home Care Service Alliance (LC Paper No. CB(2)1208/20-21(01)) on the subject under discussion.

#### Strategies and mechanism in providing welfare facilities

28 The Deputy Chairman considered that the Administration should base on the gap between the existing supply in services and the projected demand for welfare services to plan for service provision, and take into consideration views of the stakeholders in the process. Taking the standard of having one District Elderly Community Centres in each new development area with a population of around 170 000 or above as stipulated in the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines as an example, he criticized that the paper provided by the Administration had not set out any specific plans for achieving the planning ratios for various types of welfare facilities under its long-term strategy in providing welfare facilities. He requested the Administration to provide detailed information on the projected service provision in the short, medium and long terms and the financial resources so required so as to facilitate members' understanding of its strategies to meet the welfare service needs of specific groups. Referring to the concerns raised by Concerning Home Care Service Alliance in its submission, Mr Wilson OR expressed grave concern that the current provision of community rehabilitation day centres and district support centres for

persons with disabilities significantly fell behind the planning ratios of these two types of facility recommended by the Persons with Disabilities and Rehabilitation Programme Plan (i.e. one centre for every 420 000 persons for the former and one centre for every 280 000 persons for the latter). He called on the Administration to set performance indicators for its planning for social welfare facilities and establish a regular review mechanism to collect views from the public on the provision of welfare facilities.

29 USLW explained that the formulation of planning ratios for welfare facilities would facilitate relevant departments to reserve suitable premises during the planning process of new development projects for the construction of relevant facilities to better meet the service demands in new communities. For old districts, the Administration was monitoring closely under the medium-term strategy if there were suitable sites for providing welfare facilities in these districts by, say, incorporating land sale conditions for suitable land sale sites to require private developers to design and construct bare-shell premises for proposed welfare facilities according to the specifications of the Administration; and encouraging NGOs to make better use of their existing sites through expansion, redevelopment or new development to provide much-needed welfare facilities through the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses ("the Special Sites Scheme"), both with funding support by the Lotteries Fund ("LF"). For details of the specific projects funded by LF, members could refer to the past annual briefings given by the Administration to the Panel in this regard.

Admin 30. The Deputy Chairman and Mr Wilson OR expressed dissatisfaction to the flimsy response made by USLW which failed to provide any concrete information on the targets and timetables to meet the short, medium and long-term needs for various types of welfare facilities. The Chairman and Mr POON Siu-ping criticized that merely formulating high-sounding strategies for provision of welfare facilities was of no use if no timeframes were set for achieving the targets. Given the shortage of welfare premises, there were family tragedies involving doubleton elderly and cases whereby the elderly persons had passed away while being waitlisted for residential care services. The Deputy Chairman requested the Administration to provide supplementary information after the meeting to set out in table form the short, medium and long-term plans for the provision of social welfare facilities, including details on the projected demand, additional places required, floor area requirements and financial resources required.

31 The Chairman suggested that the Administration should consider making use of lower floors of PRH domestic blocks for provision of welfare facilities. Deputy Director of Social Welfare (Services) ("DDSW(S)") took note of the suggestion, adding that SWD had been maintaining close contact

with relevant departments to identify suitable sites in the development or re-development of PRH estates for providing welfare facilities.

#### Purchase of premises for provision of welfare facilities

32 Referring to the short-term strategy of allocating \$20 billion for the purchase of about 120 premises for the provision of welfare facilities, the Chairman, Mr Wilson OR and Mr Vincent CHENG expressed grave concern about the lack of updated information on the progress of the purchase exercise. Noting that SWD had completed the consultation with the 18 Districts Councils on the lists of welfare facilities proposed in the relevant districts in mid-November 2020, Mr POON Siu-ping asked about the consultation result. He requested the Administration to make available information on the premises purchased, including types and commencement dates of as well as manpower arrangements for the facilities to be provided.

33 USLW and DDSW(S) advised that details of SWD's requirements on the welfare facilities to be accommodated in the non-domestic premises planned to be purchased in each district were available on the Government Property Agency's website. Owners with potential suitable premises available for sale could submit their proposals to the Administration for assessment. The Government Property Agency was currently assisting SWD to assess the sales proposals received from open invitation and other sources. It should be noted that while the focus of the public would primarily be on whether the potential premises were easily accessible, the Administration needed to ensure that the premises would meet various requirements in terms of, for example, size of the premises and compliance with the law. As undertaken earlier, the Administration would brief the Panel on the implementation progress of the purchase exercise within the current legislative session. Mr Vincent CHENG urged the Administration to speed up the purchase exercise to address the pressing needs of the public. The Chairman reminded the Administration that the last regular meeting of the Panel in the current legislative session would be held on 11 October 2021.

#### Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses

34 Mr Vincent CHENG expressed dissatisfaction that as at end of December 2020, out of the 63 project proposals received under Phase One of the Special Sites Scheme in 2013, only five projects had been completed. He sought explanations for the slow implementation progress of the Special Sites Scheme. USLW and DDSW(S) explained that as NGOs owned the sites concerned, they would take the lead in taking forward the projects. Time was needed to complete the necessary development and planning

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procedures (e.g. modification of lease, outline zoning plan amendment, planning permission, etc.). Six projects had now been completed under Phase One of the Special Sites Scheme. Besides, five projects had entered the pre-construction detailed design stage and another 18 projects were at the technical feasibility studies stage. SWD would continue to press ahead with the implementation of the Special Sites Scheme and render assistance to NGO applicants during the planning and development process of their projects.

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35. Holding the view that the NGOs concerned should have set targets for completion in their project proposals, Mr Vincent CHENG requested the Administration to advise in writing the latest progress and estimated completion date of each of the ongoing projects under Phase One of the Special Sites Scheme. USLW advised that the Administration had briefed the Panel on the latest position of the implementation of the Special Sites Scheme and the last update was made in June 2020.

Community Investment and Inclusion Fund

36 The Deputy Chairman enquired about the roles of the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund ("CIIF") and LF in the provision of welfare services. USLW and DDSW(S) advised that LF was primarily used to provide non-recurrent resources for the construction and provision of social welfare facilities and services, including costs for construction, fitting-out, renovation, repair and maintenance as well as purchase/replacement of furniture and equipment. CIIF provided funding for community support projects, such as those for residents of new PRH estates to encourage them to build support networks in the community, so as to enhance their adaptability to the new environment and to increase their sense of belonging to the community.

**V. Any other business**

37 There being no other business, the meeting ended at 1:00 pm.