

Elderly Commission
Minutes of the 89th Meeting

Conference Room 2, G/F, Central Government Offices,
2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar, Hong Kong
10:00 a.m., 7 December 2016 (Wednesday)

Present:

Chairman

Dr LAM Ching-choi, BBS, JP

Members

Mrs CHAN LUI Ling-yee, Lilian

Ms CHAN Man-ki, Maggie, MH, JP

Mr LAM Hoi-cheung, Victor, JP

Prof LEE Tze-fan, Diana, JP

Dr Vivian LOU Wei-qun

Mr SHIE Wai-hung, Henry

Mrs SO CHAN Wai-hang, Susan, BBS

Dr TSE Man-wah, Doris

Dr TUNG Sau-ying, MH

Mr WONG Fan-fung, Jackson, BBS, MH

Mr WONG Kit-loong

Mr WONG Tai-lun, Kenneth

Mrs WONG WONG Yu-sum, Doris

Dr YEUNG Ka-ching

Miss TAM Kam-lan, Annie, GBS, JP

Mr NIP Tak-kuen, Patrick, JP

Ms Carol YIP, JP

Ms PANG Kit-ling

Dr LI Mun-pik, Teresa

Mr Ng Shu-chung

Dr MAW Kit-chee, Christina

Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Health)

Director of Social Welfare

Assistant Director of Social Welfare (Elderly)

Assistant Director of Health (Family and Elderly Health Services)

Chief Manager (Management), Housing Department

Chief Manager (Primary and Community Services), Hospital Authority

In attendance:

Mr CHEN Yee, Donald, JP	Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Miss CHANG Lai-chu, Stella	Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Mr TO Yick-ting, Justin	Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Acting)
Ms CHEUNG Jick-man, Lilian	Chief Social Work Officer, Social Welfare Department
Ms CHU Wing-yin, Diana	Chief Social Work Officer, Social Welfare Department
Ms YEW Suet-yi, Mary	Senior Social Work Officer, Social Welfare Department
Mr POON Leung-hoi, Leo	Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Ms LEE Ngan-chau, Martina	Chief Executive Officer, Labour and Welfare Bureau
Miss LEE Hoi-kei, Jacqueline	Executive Officer, Labour and Welfare Bureau
Miss LEUNG Pui-yin, Sam	Executive Officer, Labour and Welfare Bureau

Agenda item 3

Ms CHEUNG Yi-mei, Amy	Assistant Director of Planning (Territorial)
Miss LAU Bo-yee, Winnie	Chief Town Planner (Strategic Planning), Planning Department

Absent with apologies:

Miss CHAN Man-yee, Grace
Mr CHEUNG Leong

Secretary

Mr CHONG Kwok-wing, Gordon	Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare
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Dr LAM Ching-choi, the Chairman, welcomed Members to the meeting.

2. The Chairman reminded Members to make a declaration when there was a potential conflict between their own interests and the matters to be discussed.

Agenda item 1: Confirmation of the minutes of the 88th meeting

3. As Members had not proposed any amendments to the Chinese and English versions of the draft minutes issued by the Secretariat on 22 and 25 November 2016 respectively, the minutes were confirmed.

Agenda item 2: Matters arising

4. There were no matters arising from the minutes of the 88th meeting.

Agenda item 3: Hong Kong 2030+: Towards a Planning Vision and Strategy Transcending 2030

(Discussion Paper No. EC/D/04-16)

5. Ms Amy CHEUNG Yi-mei, Assistant Director of Planning (Territorial) and Miss Winnie LAU Bo-yee, Chief Town Planner (Strategic Planning), of the Planning Department briefed Members on the key findings and recommendations of the “Hong Kong 2030+: Towards a Planning Vision and Strategy Transcending 2030” (Hong Kong 2030+) with a PowerPoint presentation. Miss LAU said that the Hong Kong 2030+ aimed to update the territorial development strategy, which was reviewed around once every ten years, to guide Hong Kong’s future planning, land and infrastructure development and the shaping of the built and natural environment beyond 2030. The vision of the Hong Kong 2030+ was to make Hong Kong a more liveable, competitive and sustainable Asia’s World City, taking into account global megatrends, the regional development and the challenges facing Hong Kong. Three building blocks were proposed for achieving the vision, namely “Planning for a Liveable High-density City”, “Embracing New Economic Challenges and Opportunities” and “Creating Capacity for Sustainable Growth”.

6. For “Planning for a Liveable High-density City”, the Hong Kong 2030+ proposed to optimise the development of new development areas and retrofit densely developed urban areas with a view to enhancing the quality of overall living environment and making better use of the limited land and space. To address the needs arising from an ageing community, it was proposed that age-friendly concepts should be promoted in planning and design to facilitate “Ageing in Place”. These concepts included promoting a greater diversity of housing choices for elderly persons, encouraging the use of universal design in both public and private residential developments, and providing land and space for elderly

care facilities preferably on an estate basis and complemented by district and community based services to cater for elderly persons' needs for healthcare, community and welfare services. In view of the rapid dilapidation of many old buildings, it was proposed that apart from the ongoing initiatives in the areas of redevelopment, rehabilitation, revitalisation and conservation, the Government should also step up its efforts and policy for urban regeneration to rejuvenate the dilapidated urban areas. Besides, it was proposed to adopt a higher ratio of land area per person in planning for government, institution or community (G/IC) facilities and open space so as to enhance the provision of living space and public facilities. Buffer was proposed to be included in the development capacity to allow for the possibilities and flexibility to improve home space. It also proposed to establish a "Green and Blue Asset System" network by integrating green and blue space planning and providing eco-corridors and green and blue infrastructure, and promote a healthy city. To "Embrace New Economic Challenges and Opportunities", Hong Kong would have to move up the value chain and diversify its economic base. The building of land reserve could help enhance Hong Kong's capacity for providing diversified choices of premises for various industries and services and creating quality jobs requiring a range of skills. In this connection, the Hong Kong 2030+ proposed the creation of strategic economic nodes, particularly in areas outside the Metro Area, to bring jobs closer to homes, and this would facilitate the elderly persons to rejoin the labour force. Furthermore, Hong Kong would have to "Create Capacity for Sustainable Growth" through adopting a refined strategic planning approach. This would entail the creation of development space and enhancement of transport and infrastructure while creating, enhancing and regenerating environmental capacity and adopting a smart, green and resilient city strategy. Hong Kong would be able to create development and environmental capacities in a holistic manner, and to properly manage and reduce the demands for resources and infrastructure.

7. The Government estimated that Hong Kong's long-term requirement for new land would be over 4 800 hectares (ha). After discounting the provision of about 3 600 ha from committed and planned land supply, there would be an anticipated land shortfall of at least 1 200 ha in the long run against the estimated land requirement. To cater for the future land demand and translate the above three building blocks into spatial planning terms, a conceptual spatial framework was proposed in the Hong Kong 2030+. The proposed framework focused on future development with one metropolitan business core (covering the traditional Central Business District, Kowloon East and the East Lantau Metropolis), two strategic growth areas (including the development of the East Lantau Metropolis and New Territories North) and three development axes (namely the Western Economic Corridor, the Eastern Knowledge and Technology Corridor, and the Northern Economic Belt). With a supporting transport network, the proposed framework would prepare Hong Kong for sustainable growth and better living environment while meeting the various social

and economic development needs. When the proposals regarding the conceptual spatial framework were fully implemented, the maximum population capacity of Hong Kong would increase to 9 million, i.e. 10% more than the peak population of 8.22 million in 2043 as projected by the Census and Statistics Department. Such a capacity, while not being the target population set by the Government, could provide a buffer and flexibility for the long-term development of Hong Kong and serve as manoeuvring spaces (e.g. for increasing the provision of home space, G/IC facilities and open space). The strategic directions and associated key actions proposed in the Hong Kong 2030+ covered a wide array of policy areas. To ensure timely implementation of the recommendations concerned, it was proposed to establish a high-level steering structure within the Government as an institutional setup for co-ordinating, prioritising and monitoring the initiatives to be taken forward by various bureaux and departments within an overall strategic framework. Ms CHEUNG said that the six-month public engagement exercise for the Hong Kong 2030+ had been launched since October 2016 to gather public views on updating the territorial development strategy. Based on the views collected, preferred spatial development option(s) would be formulated to address Hong Kong's present and future social, environmental and economic needs and aspirations.

8. After the briefing, the Chairman and Members raised the following suggestions, views and questions:

- (a) The recommendations made in the Hong Kong 2030+ were in general related to territorial development planning at a macro level. A Member enquired whether details of the recommendations fell within the scope of the public engagement exercise.
- (b) "Small district planning" should be adopted to provide age-friendly facilities within small districts on an estate basis, so as to provide elderly persons with convenient access to appropriate community and leisure facilities in their neighbourhood.
- (c) The Commission was pleased to note that public and private residential developers were encouraged to increase the supply of flats suitable for elderly persons and to adopt universal design. The Government should take a step forward and consider mandating the use of universal design or adding the relevant requirements to the Conditions of Land Grant in order to ensure and increase the supply of housing suitable for elderly persons. In promoting age-friendly planning and design concepts, it was hoped that design elements conducive to the provision of home care services by outreach healthcare and social welfare personnel could be included in the planning and design of flats to

facilitate “Ageing in Place”.

- (d) In adopting the concept of “universal design”, flexibility in housing design should be encouraged. For example, the use of removable partition walls for room and toilet could enable residents of different ages to alter the internal layout of their flats, so as to meet their actual needs and preferences without much difficulty.
- (e) To achieve “Ageing in Place”, the government should ensure that elderly persons were provided with appropriate community support services. Sufficient financial resources and land should be set aside in its future planning to meet the demand for elderly services. The Government should also co-ordinate the support services provided by various welfare organisations to facilitate effective allocation of community resources.
- (f) In the future, the Government should consider incorporating different measures favourable to elderly persons into its urban redevelopment planning. For example, policy support could be provided for elderly home owners who would wish to increase their retirement income by selling a larger flat and buying a smaller one with lower market value. The Government could also specify the numbers of senior citizens housing flats and residential care homes for elderly persons required to be provided in particular districts in the re-planning of urban areas so as to facilitate the building of a community which would enable elderly persons to live near their family members and promote inter-generational harmony.
- (g) In response to the increasing demand for healthcare services in the face of an ageing population, the Government should reserve sufficient land for healthcare facilities in its spatial planning. Old districts in general had a higher proportion of elderly persons with lesser financial means. When redeveloping these old districts, the Government should ensure adequate provision of healthcare facilities to meet the needs of elderly persons living in the districts concerned.
- (h) Noting that the territorial development strategy was reviewed around once every ten year, a Member asked about the guiding framework previously adopted by the Government for co-ordinating and monitoring the relevant development initiatives.
- (i) As regards the planning for new development areas, the Government should

designate some sites for multi-purpose use, or allow development projects in these areas flexibility in the use of buildings under the Buildings Ordinance so as to provide adequate space for the provision of appropriate community facilities for those in need according actual demand.

- (j) At present, the residents of the housing estates for senior citizens provided by the Hong Kong Housing Society (HKHS) were mainly elderly persons with financial means. These estates, however well-designed, were unlikely to benefit elderly persons from the grassroots. Therefore, a Member suggested that the Housing Department (HD) should draw on the experience of the HKHS and build more flats under its Housing for Senior Citizens (HSC) Scheme for grassroots elderly. The Member also wished to visit the flats built by the HD under the HSC Scheme or other age-friendly facilities in public housing estates, so as to gain a better understanding of the current living conditions and housing needs of elderly persons.
- (k) A Member was of the opinion that the Hong Kong 2030+ had provided a good vision. Nevertheless, to overcome the challenges ahead, the Government had to make co-ordinated efforts to balance the views and interests of different shareholders in the community. Only by doing so could practical spatial development options be formulated and implemented.
- (l) Taking into account the key strategic direction of building an inclusive and supportive city and the need to strengthen policy support for people of different ages, the Government should introduce age-friendly measures, such as providing and developing facilities conducive to the personal development and education of elderly persons. To create an environment supportive of families with elderly members, the Government should identify readily accessible locations for the provision of day care services for elderly persons with a view to shaping a living environment which would genuinely address the needs of people of different ages.
- (m) When planning for the redevelopment of old districts, the Government should make reference to the experience and good practices of other ageing cities with ancient buildings (such as London's community redevelopment programmes) in order to formulate and refine its redevelopment proposals accordingly to meet local needs. As land resources for development and planning purposes were still abundant in Lantau Island, the Government could consider building an age-friendly community outside the city centre in the light of the experience of other cities.

- (n) Given an ageing population and a shrinking workforce, the Government might need to import labour in the future to address the shortage of primary care personnel. The planning for future spatial development should therefore take into account the potential housing needs of imported workers.
- (o) The Commission was pleased to note that the Government had adopted “Building a Healthy City” as one of its planning targets since environmental design was closely related to the development of a healthy lifestyle. An ageing population with longer life expectancy posed many challenges to society, in particular the demand for healthcare and elderly services, which was directly related to the health of Hong Kong people. In this connection, the inclusion of community facilities which could encourage the public to do more exercise and lead a healthy life in town planning should be taken as a key initiative for mitigating the impacts of population ageing.
- (p) According to the Hong Kong 2030+, it was estimated that there would be a land shortfall of at least 1 200 ha for development in the long run. A Member enquired how such a shortfall would be addressed.

9. In response to the suggestions, views and questions raised by Members, Ms CHEUNG and Miss LAU replied as follows:

- (a) While putting forward a long-term development strategy at the macro level, the Hong Kong 2030+ was only a starting point. In formulating the spatial development options and implementing the related proposals, details of many initiatives had to be worked out. As suggestions made at the micro level might carry implications for planning at the macro level, members of public and stakeholders were most welcome to share their views pertinent to any level of planning.
- (b) The Hong Kong 2030+ proposed a conceptual framework of accessibility, reinventing public space and taking forward development on the basis of small district planning such that public transport interchanges, neighbourhood, community facilities and open space could be made more readily accessible to the public. This would also be in line with the Government’s policy of promoting “Ageing in Place”.
- (c) For the purpose of improving the provision of public facilities, including elderly services and healthcare facilities, the Government would adopt a higher ratio of 3.5 square metres per person for the future planning for G/IC land. It

was also proposed that the provision of open space should be increased from the current 2 square metres per person to 2.5 square metres per person to enhance living space.

- (d) The Hong Kong 2030+ proposed ways to facilitate the implementation of policy initiatives of various government bureaux in terms of hardware support, including providing land to meet various policy initiatives. Although the Government had put in place established mechanisms to take forward its policies, the Hong Kong 2030+ recommended that a high-level steering structure should be set up within the Government to ensure timely implementation of the policy initiatives. The Government would then be able to support, co-ordinate and monitor the implementation of relevant initiatives by bureaux and departments in a more focused manner within the overall strategic framework of the Hong Kong 2030+.
- (e) During the public engagement exercise, the Planning Department (PlanD) would collect views from the public and stakeholders on the proposed adoption of universal design in private developments, and take follow-up action where necessary.
- (f) At present, many government facilities planned for new development areas were in the form of multi-purpose complexes. The aim was to optimise the use of land resources in site planning and allow greater flexibility in terms of land use.
- (g) During the public engagement exercise, the PlanD would reach out to different sectors of the community through multiple channels (including public forums, focus group discussions, briefings, exchange sessions, guided visits/workshops, thematic and roving exhibitions and a dedicated website) to enhance public understanding of the Hong Kong 2030+ and provide a platform for stakeholders of all sectors and members of the public to express, listen and understand one another's views and considerations.
- (h) The maximum housing capacity under the spatial framework proposed in the Hong Kong 2030+ was about 9 million in terms of population. Such a capacity would provide a buffer of around 10% for the peak population estimated at 8.22 million in 2043 according to the baseline projections. By translating the buffer into manoeuvring spaces, the Government would be able to provide adequate land to cope with unforeseeable social changes, including population growth due to importation of labour.

- (i) The Hong Kong 2030+ proposed to develop two strategic growth areas, namely East Lantau Metropolis and New Territories North, which would provide a total development area of 1 720 ha to address Hong Kong's land shortage in the long run. As a short to medium term solution, the Government would accord priority to the development of degraded land (including brownfield sites) and abandoned land with low conservation value at the fringes of built-up areas.

10. In conclusion, the Chairman summarised the views of the Commission on the findings and recommendations of the Hong Kong 2030+. He said that various sectors of the community had to reach a consensus on the vision and recommendations of the Hong Kong 2030+ so that feasible spatial development options could be formulated and the relevant initiatives could be converted into action. He hoped that the views and concrete suggestions given by the Commission could help ensure effective planning for the future development strategy of Hong Kong.

Agenda Item 4: Progress Reports by Working Groups and Committee

Working Group on Elderly Services Programme Plan

11. The Chairman said that at its 10th meeting on 27 September 2016, the Working Group on Elderly Services Programme Plan discussed the Report on Formulation Stage prepared by the consultant team from The University of Hong Kong. The Report had been published in early October 2016 after collecting Members' views. In addition, the Working Group had organised 18 public forums for all the 18 districts in Hong Kong as at 5 December 2016. To facilitate public participation, three additional forums (i.e. two evening sessions and one Saturday session) would be held from 15 to 17 December 2016 to gather the views of stakeholders and members of the public on the initial framework and recommendations of the Elderly Services Programme Plan (ESPP).

Agenda Item 5: Any other business

Arrangements for study trip to Tokyo

12. The Chairman said that the Commission was planning a study trip to Tokyo, Japan in the first quarter of 2017. The Secretariat would, in collaboration with the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Tokyo, prepare a preliminary itinerary and circulate it for Members' reference. The Chairman pointed out that Japan was also facing the challenges

of an ageing society. He believed that the trip would provide useful reference in elderly services programmes, particularly in the areas of application of technology, long-term care insurance system and ways to address a shrinking workforce. He encouraged Members to join the visit and offer their views on the itinerary.

Suggestions about the arrangements for the public engagement exercise of the third stage of the Elderly Services Programme Plan in the letter from Legislative Council Member Hon SHIU Ka-chun

13. In his letter dated 30 November 2016 to Mr Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung, Secretary for Labour and Welfare, Hon SHIU Ka-chun, Chairman of the Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services, suggested that the deadline for written submissions at the Consensus Building Stage of the ESPP should be extended for one month (i.e. from 31 December 2016 to 31 January 2017) to allow the public more time to participate in discussions and express their views. He also suggested that the three additional public consultation forums to be held in December 2016 should focus on discussions on the following three topics:

- (a) Privatisation/marketisation of residential and community care services;
- (b) Rationale for the planning ratios for residential and community care services, performance indicators and implementation timetables; and
- (c) Review of and amendments to the ordinances regulating residential care homes, implementation timetables and arrangements for public engagement activities.

14. Miss Annie TAM Kam-lan, Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare, said that the Government would listen to Members' views and consider extending the deadline for five weeks to 6 February 2017 to allow the public more time to study the ESPP and submit their written submissions after attending the consultation forums. This arrangement would not affect the completion time of the ESPP. However, it was worried that a public forum with preset topics might limit discussions, thus depriving the participants of the opportunities to express their views on other elderly service issues they were concerned about.

15. After deliberations, Members unanimously agreed to consider extending the deadline for five weeks to 6 February 2017. They were of the view that participants of the public consultation forums should be allowed to express their opinions freely so that the

Government could collect views from different sectors of the community on the preliminary recommendations of the ESPP and other related subjects in a comprehensive manner.

Time of adjournment

16. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Date of next meeting

17. The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for 10 February 2017.
(Post-meeting note: The next meeting was re-scheduled for 8 February 2017.)

January 2017