

(Translation)

Elderly Commission
Minutes of the 114th Meeting

Date: 27 March 2024 (Wednesday)

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Venue: Conference Room 3, G/F, Central Government Offices,
2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar, Hong Kong,

Present

Chairman

Dr LI Kwok-tung, Donald, SBS, JP

Members

Dr CHAN Chi-kau, Johnnie Casire, SBS, JP

Ms CHAN Man-yee, Grace

Ms IP Shun-hing, BBS, MH, JP

Prof LAM Chiu-wa, Linda

Mr LAU Tat-chuen

Mr LIT Hoo-yin, Horace

Dr LUK Ka-hay, James

Mr MA Heng, Theodore

Ms MAN Wei-yin, Queenie

Mr SIU King-wai, Kyrus

Mr SU Yau-on, Albert, MH, JP

Ms WONG Chor-kei, Macy, MH

Ms LAU Yim, Alice, JP

Permanent Secretary for Labour and
Welfare

Mr LEE Lik-kong, Eddie, JP

Deputy Secretary for Health 2

Ms YAN Lai-ming, Jenny

Assistant Director of Social Welfare
(Elderly)

Dr HO Lei-ming, Raymond

Assistant Director of Health (Elderly
Health)

Ms HAROON Hamidah

Assistant Director of Housing (Estate
Management) 1

Dr CHING Wai-kuen

Director (Strategy and Planning),
Hospital Authority

In attendance

Mr CHONG Wing-wun

Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare
(Welfare) 2

Ms CHOI Mui-fun, Jenny

Deputy Secretary for Development
(Planning and Lands) 2

Ms TO Kit-lai, Priscilla

Deputy Secretary for Security 1

Ms CHEUNG Pui-shan, Sandy

Principal Assistant Secretary for Security E

Ms CHEUNG Yuk-ching, Karen

Assistant Director/New Buildings 1,
Buildings Department

Mr CHU Wai-yiu, Dick

Chief Building Surveyor/Kowloon,
Buildings Department

Ms AU Mo-ching, Katherine

Chief Manager/Management (Support
Services Section 2), Housing Department

Mr CHAN Sing-cheong, Michael

Senior Superintendent of Police
(Identification Bureau)

Ms LAI Wai-ye, Renie

Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare
(Welfare) 3A

Ms CHEN Wai-tik, Wendy

Assistant Secretary for Development
(Building)1

Dr MAN Lai, Sylvia

Senior Medical and Health Officer (Elderly
Health Service), Department of Health

Ms HO Koon-ling, Rosanna

Chief Executive Officer (Welfare) 4,
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Mr LAU Shun-tak

Executive Officer (Welfare) 4, Labour and
Welfare Bureau

Absent with apologies

Prof BAI Xue

Prof LAI Wing-leung, Daniel

Dr LEE Shun-wah, Jenny

Ms YU Chui-ye, BBS, MH

Secretary

Ms CHAN Ah-wing, Ivy

Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and
Welfare (Welfare) 4

* * * * *

Dr LI Kwok-tung, Donald, the Chairman, welcomed all Members to the meeting, in particular Ms HAROON Hamidah, Assistant Director of Housing (Estate Management) 1, who was attending for the first time.

2. The Chairman reminded Members that they must declare potential conflicts, if any, between their interests and matters under discussion. Dr CHAN Chi-kau, Johnnie Casire, declared as follows:

| Relevant Agenda Item | Associated Organisations Declared |
|---|--|
| Item 3: Promoting Elderly-friendly Building Design | Dr Chan was the Chairman of the Building Committee, Hong Kong Housing Authority and a Member of the Special Committee on Elderly Housing, Hong Kong Housing Society. |

Agenda item 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 113th Meeting

3. Members did not propose any amendments to the Chinese and English versions of the draft minutes of the 113th meeting issued by the Secretariat on 26 February 2024. The minutes were confirmed.

Agenda item 2: Matters arising

4. There were no matters arising from the 113th meeting.

Agenda item 3: Promoting Elderly-friendly Building Design

5. With the aid of slides, Ms CHOI Mui-fun, Jenny, Deputy Secretary for Development (Planning and Lands) 2, and Ms CHEUNG Yuk-ching, Karen, Assistant Director of Buildings/New Buildings 1, briefed Members on the work plan on promoting elderly-friendly building design.

6. After the briefing, the Chairman and Members expressed views and raised questions as follows:

- (a) the Government's efforts in promoting elderly-friendly building design was supported. It was suggested that the Government, when formulating the relevant guidelines, could make reference to past studies conducted by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the academia on elderly-friendly designs;
- (b) apart from providing wider passageways for the elderly within buildings, attention should be paid to enhancing road design. For example, connections between eco-pavers and manhole covers as well as tactile guide paths for the visually-impaired might present potential tripping hazards to the elderly. For the sake of safety, uneven paving blocks on the road should be improved as soon as possible;
- (c) for private development projects, covered walkways not exceeding two metres in width were currently excluded from the calculation of gross floor area (GFA) but those wider than two metres might not be exempted. The Government could consider relaxing the relevant restriction on public housing developments to allow the construction of wider covered walkways without reducing the GFA of the projects;
- (d) when promoting elderly-friendly building design, the increasing use of prefabricated components from the Mainland in public housing development should be considered;
- (e) the introduction of smart elderly-friendly building design to capitalise on gerontechnology should be explored. Examples included the provision of barrier-free access at elderly's homes to facilitate the movement of artificial intelligence robots, and the provision of ancillary facilities for network connection in public housing projects to support telehealth services;
- (f) elderly-friendly design should particularly focus on elderly safety. For example, lifts should be fitted with handrails; toilets and kitchens should have non-slip flooring, handrails and sufficient manoeuvring space for

wheelchair; and toilet doors should be readily removable to facilitate emergency rescue;

- (g) if welfare and healthcare service facilities were legally required to comply with elderly-friendly building design requirements in the future, some of the older facilities might fail to meet the requirements and exemption arrangements for such might be needed;
- (h) it was suggested that the Government should take into account the compliance costs in respect of elderly-friendly building design requirements when allocating funds to welfare and healthcare service providers; and
- (i) there was concern about the work schedule of the Buildings Department's Consultancy Study for the Review of the Design Manual: Barrier Free Access (Design Manual).

7. In response to Members' views and questions, Ms CHOI Mui-fun, Jenny and Ms CHEUNG Yuk-ching, Karen gave a consolidated reply. They advised that the consultant would review the Design Manual comprehensively and examine chapters on elderly-friendly design first, with the target of proposing a full set of preliminary proposals on elderly-friendly design within this year. The consultant would listen to the views of the community to finalise the plan.

8. The Chairman said that Members were welcomed to express their views on promoting elderly-friendly building design, if any, to the Secretariat.

Agenda item 4: Expansion of the Sexual Conviction Record Check Scheme

9. With the aid of slides, Ms TO Kit-lai, Priscilla, Deputy Secretary for Security 1 and Ms CHEUNG Pui-shan, Sandy, Principal Assistant Secretary for Security E, briefed Members on the proposed arrangements for expanding the Sexual Conviction Record Check (SCRC) Scheme.

10. After the briefing, the Chairman and Members expressed views and raised questions as follows:

- (a) it was enquired whether interns were covered under the existing SCRC Scheme; and
- (b) there was concern over whether NGOs had to conduct checks for one-off volunteering activities.

11. In response to Members' views and questions, Ms TO Kit-lai, Priscilla gave a consolidated reply as follows:

- (a) whether interns were covered under the existing SCRC Scheme would depend on individual circumstances. If the interns were paid and had an employment relationship with the employer, they were already included in the existing SCRC Scheme. On the contrary, if the interns were unpaid and served as volunteers, they would be included in the expanded scope of the SCRC Scheme in Phase 2; and
- (b) volunteering activities might be carried out in various service settings. Whether or not to conduct checks was voluntary and should be decided by the organisations recruiting the volunteers. If individual organisations assessed that the volunteers would not have one-on-one contact with the mentally incapacitated persons (MIPs), they could choose not to conduct the checks on the volunteers. The scope of the SCRC Scheme would be expanded to cover all volunteers in Phase 2. The Government would strengthen communication with the relevant organisations and provide guidelines to facilitate their assessments of the risk levels of the activities, thereby determining the need for checks.

12. The Chairman indicated the Commission's support for the progressive expansion of the SCRC Scheme and enhancement to the relevant electronic system, with a view to strengthening the protection for MIPs and increasing the efficiency of case processing.

Agenda item 5: Progress Reports by Working Groups and Committee

Working Group on Elderly Services Programme Plan and Working Group on Ageing in Place

13. Ms CHAN Ah-wing, Ivy, Secretary to the Commission, reported that the fourth joint meeting of the two working groups was tentatively scheduled for the second quarter this year.

Committee on Elder Academy Development Foundation (EADF)

14. Ms CHAN Ah-wing, Ivy, reported that:

- (a) the Committee on EADF endorsed in March this year the recommendation of the Vetting Sub-committee to provide funding support to 39 applications, involving a total funding of about \$5.2 million. The first round of funding applications in 2024-25 would be closed on 31 May this year; and
- (b) to thank various sectors of the community for their support to the Elder Academy Scheme and commend outstanding elderly learners, the Labour and Welfare Bureau would organise the Elder Academy Appreciation and Award Ceremony at the Auditorium of the Central Government Offices at 3:00 p.m. on 30 April this year (Tuesday). The Secretariat would extend a formal invitation to Members in due course and hoped that they could attend the ceremony amid their busy schedules.

【Posting-meeting note: The Secretariat invited the Chairman and Members to attend the Ceremony by email on 28 March this year.】

Website of the Elderly Commission

15. Ms CHAN Ah-wing, Ivy, reported that the Commission launched its revamped website on 15 March 2024. Members were welcomed to visit the new website (<https://www.elderlycommission.gov.hk>) and offer their views.

Agenda item 6: Any Other Business

16. There was no other business for discussion at the meeting.

Time of Adjournment

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

Date of Next Meeting

18. The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for 19 June 2024. The Secretariat would advise Members of the meeting details in due course.

May 2024