

THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE
Executive Committee 2021/22

Minutes of the 5th Meeting of the Executive Committee for 2021/22 held on Monday, 25 July, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. and due to pandemic, the meeting was held online by Zoom.

Present : The Hon. Bernard Chan (Chairperson)
Ms. Yvonne Chak Mr. Charles Chan
Ms. Queenie Chan Ms. Susan Chan
Mr. Francis Chau Mr. Benny Cheung
Mr. Daniel Chu Mr. Andy Ho
Mr. Lai Wing Hoi Mr. Larry Kwok
Dr. the Hon. Lam Ching Choi Ms. Elizabeth Law
Ms. Anthea Lee Ms. Josephine Lee
Dr. Edward Leung Ms. Ivy Leung
Mr. Kennedy Liu Dr. Annissa Lui
Dr. CC Luk Prof. Terry Lum
Mr. Joseph Man Ms. Wong Sau Wa
Dr. the Hon. Stephen Wong Ms. Yvonne Yeung

In-Attendance : Mr. Chua Hoi Wai, Chief Executive
Ms. Grace Chan, Business Director
Mr. Cliff Choi, Business Director
Mr. Raymond Lai, Business Director
Mr. Anthony Wong, Business Director
Ms. Cynthia Lee, Director (Finance)

Apologies : Ms. Melissa Pang Ms. Sky Siu
Dr. the Hon. Tik Chi Yuen Ms. Amarantha Yip

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

1. Minutes of the last meeting dated 30 May 2022 were confirmed with no amendment.

MATTERS ARISING

2. Matters arising were noted from the minutes of the last meeting:

2.1 1% Cut on Welfare Subventions

Mr. Chua reported that having followed formal procurement procedures, and after elaborate deliberation with the office-bearers of ExCo, and Ms. Melissa Pang, a barrister had been officially engaged via the Council's appointed legal firm, which the Council would work closely with to follow up on the 1% cut issue. Members would be updated on the latest developments.

2.2 Annual Submission and WAPs

Mr. Chua updated that the final reports of Annual Submission and WAPs had been submitted respectively to the CE of HKSAR and DSW in early July 2022.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION AND APPROVAL

To note the Chief Executive's Progress Report

3. Mr. Chua highlighted and provided supplementary information to the progress report, which Members noted with no further comments.

3.1 Survey on Households of Sub-divided Unit

Mr. Chua reported that a survey on households of sub-divided unit (SDU) was ongoing in phases and an analysis on youths living in SDU had been completed. The findings and recommendations, in particular to the mentorship pilot scheme to be proposed by the government, had been released in a press briefing in July.

3.2 Follow Up on Review on Enhancement of Lump Sum Grant Subvention System (LSG)

Mr. Chua reported that deliberations on enhancement of LSG review were ongoing. Members of related governing committees had been arranged to meet with SWD in exchanging and channeling the sector's views. The Council had also met DSW and senior officials of SWD to discuss the principles and guidelines on cost apportionment, FSA-related activities, and NGOs' reserves, etc. Views shared in the meeting were noted by DSW, and the Council had submitted the summary notes which SWD would take into serious consideration when relevant guidelines were drawn up.

3.3 Joint Insurance Scheme (JIS) Tendering

Mr. Chua reported that given the existing insurance consultancy agreement of JIS would expire by the end of 2022, the Council had conducted an open tender and invited potential insurance consultancy companies to submit proposals under the advice of Tender Assessment Committee on Joint Insurance Scheme (TAC). Subsequently, TAC had reviewed the tender proposals and conducted selection interviews with potential tenderers. At the end, an insurance consultant had been recommended and selected for the period of 2023-2032.

To note the Position of Funds

4. Presented by the Hon. Treasurer, the Position of Funds was noted and received by Members.

To note and approve Withdrawal and/or Termination of Agency Member

5. Members noted and approved the withdrawal of below agency members:

- Fantastic Dream Limited 網·想·正·有限公司
- Project Space Limited 間築有限公司

To note and approve the Recommendations on Applying the 2022-23 Civil Service Pay Adjustment to the Council

6. Members noted and approved the management's recommendation in applying the 2022-23 civil service pay adjustment to all eligible staff with retrospective effect from 1 April 2022, and the corresponding payment would be effected accordingly.

To note and approve the Review of Enhancements of Provident Fund provided to HKCSS Staff

7. Members noted and endorsed to extend the employer's contribution of 10% of staff salary to eligible staff for another year until 2024-25, taken into consideration that it was financially viable for the Council to accommodate the enhancement.

To note and approve Delegation to the Chief Executive with Signing Authorization for Tenancy Agreement entered into by Council with Lands Department regarding the Short Term Tenancy (STT) No. KX3907 of Government Land at Nos. 5-7 Yip Shing Street, Kwai Chung, New Territories

8. Members noted and approved that the Chief Executive be delegated with signing authorization for tenancy agreement entered into by Council with Lands Department regarding STT No. KX3097 of Government Land at Nos. 5-7 Yip Shing Street, Kwai Chung, New Territories.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION

9. HKCSS Committees Restructuring and Annual Election Procedure and Schedule for 2022 AGM

To follow up on the discussions at the previous meeting, Mr. Cliff Choi, Business Director, presented in details a finalised proposal on the restructuring of HKCSS committees. The proposal had provided the purpose, background, feedback collected and final recommendations. It was also supplemented with a powerpoint presentation introducing the planning/agenda setting cycle and the proposed staff team structure. Members were invited to give comments and to endorse the proposal on the restructuring of HKCSS committees, including the relevant revised terms of reference, and corresponding election arrangements in AGM 2022.

After discussion, Members' views were noted and summarised as follows:

- Members supported in principle the overall direction and framework of the finalised proposal under the strategic review study. They however opined that a transitional period would be necessary before the execution of the new structure, that would be advisable because the Council could buy time to gain support from agency members and different stakeholders, and in particular if there were any issues needed to be resolved during the transitional period. Some members also proposed that a year of preparation work could be considered, so that the implementation of the new governing committees and staff structures could be more thoroughly planned, avoiding abrupt changes and facilitate a smooth transition in the year after.
- Members suggested the Council in the interim to try maintaining the status quo, in order to ensure effectiveness and efficiency in cooperating with the new chiefs of the Bureau and Department, given the new administration of HKSAR government might aim for new measures to respond better to the concerns of the people.
- Members appreciated the management's comprehensive planning in the reviewing exercise, and efforts taken in engaging key stakeholders, including agency members, funders, government, key partners and all levels of staff. However, it would project a better perception and increase receptiveness of others to the changes, if they could be gradually implemented. There were also views that the Council should prepare for concise articulation of relevant structural changes to ensure agency members concerned would be appropriately communicated and informed.
- There were echoing views that the new governance structure should not be executed in the forthcoming election in November/December 2022, given that internal staff might have concerns and need time in adapting to new changes. In that case, the Council was advised to prepare for additional time and resources so as to ensure better staff coordination.

Finally, Mr. Chua thanked Members for the thorough discussion, and confirmed that the terms of office of members of the Specialized Committee on Sector Finance elected in 2022 was approved by Members to be shortened from 2 to 1 year, facilitating its dissolution after 2023 AGM. And, other Committees would be considered by Members after further deliberations at the next ExCo meeting in September.

Mr. Chua further reported that the Council's AGM 2022 was scheduled for 25 November, Friday afternoon at the Council's Auditorium. Members noted and endorsed the formation of the Election Committee, with Mr. Kennedy Liu and Mr. Larry Kwok be appointed as the chairperson and member of the Election Committee for the Annual Election 2022. The schedule of nomination and election of new governance for 2022-23 and 2022-2024 were also endorsed. The membership team would proceed to start the preparation work accordingly.

10. HKCSS Strategic Objectives 2022-25 and Key Initiatives 2022-23

Mr. Chua presented the HKCSS Strategic Objectives for 2022-25, which the Council would embark on upon successful completion of the previous cycle of 2017-2022. Mr. Chua reported that the recently completed “Strategic Review of HKCSS” conducted by McKinsey & Company had revisited the Council’s vision, positioning and strategic directions, and as a result, new organizational strategies were recommended. Mr. Chua highlighted that the new strategies proposed to focus on agenda setting and impact-driven culture, via three strategic pillars including co-creation with the welfare sector, government, corporations and professional sectors; tech enablement to deliver modernized social services; and talent development in retaining and nurturing talents. These strategies were ultimately aimed to encourage the sector to pioneer effective solutions in meeting new challenges and needs of the society.

Mr. Chua noted that more details would be worked out by responsible staff teams of committees concerned in carrying out the key initiatives for 2022-23. Members noted and endorsed the HKCSS Strategic Objectives 2022-25 and Key Initiatives 2022-23 with no further comments.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11. Dinner with Mrs. Carrie Lam

Mr. Chua noted that Mrs. Carrie Lam had been invited to dinner on 1 September to thank her for supporting the welfare sector and HKCSS in the past years and Members of ExCo were invited and reminded to confirm their availability.

12. HKCSS 75th Anniversary Event

Mr. Chua noted that in commemorating the Council’s 75th anniversary, a study was conducted by McKinsey & Company, and renewed organizational strategies had been proposed. Taking the opportunity, the Council would introduce it to all relevant stakeholders, and honourable guests and experts from the Government, foundations, and corporations were invited to a joint discussion on future roles and strategies that HKCSS and the welfare sector might take on in creating higher social impact. Due to the pandemic, the anniversary event would be broadcast live. Members of ExCo were invited and more details would follow.

13. HKCSS AGM 2022 (25 November 2022) and HKCSS Convention 2023 (15 February 2023)

Members were reminded that the Council’s AGM was scheduled for 25 November 2022, Friday afternoon, and the HKCSS Convention on 15 February 2023. Members were invited to join and respective invitations would be issued accordingly. Mr. Chua thanked Members again for their support.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

14. The next meeting was scheduled for 26 September 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.