

THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE
Executive Committee 2022/23

Minutes of 1st Meeting of the Executive Committee for 2022/23 held on Monday, 16 December, 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 Ms. Karrie Chan
Ms. Queenie Chan Ms. Chan Siu Lai
Ms. Susan Chan Mr. Benny Cheung
Mr. Raymond Chiu Dr. Fung Cheung Tim
Mr. Andy Ho Mr. Larry Kwok
Ms. Elizabeth Law Dr. Hon. Lam Ching Choi
Ms. Anthea Lee Ms. Carmen Lee
Ms. Josephine Lee Ms. Ivy Leung
Ms. Rachel Leung Mr. Kennedy Liu
Dr. CC Luk Ms. Melissa Pang
Ms. Apple Tse Dr. Hon. Stephen Wong
Ms. Yvonne Yeung Ms. Amarantha Yip

In-Attendance : Mr. Chua Hoi Wai, Chief Executive
Ms. Grace Chan, Business Director
Mr. Raymond Lai, Business Director
Ms. Jessica Tam, Business Director
Mr. Anthony Wong, Business Director

Apologies : Mr. Daniel Chu Mrs. Patricia Lau
Prof. Terry Lum Dr. Hon. Tik Chi Yuen
Ms. Wong Sau Wa

WELCOME

1. Mr. Chua Hoi Wai, Chief Executive, sought Members' consent to convene the meeting until completion of the agenda to elect office-bearers of the Executive Committee (ExCo). Mr. Chua welcomed all members present and introduced newly elected Members and representatives of Standing Committees for joining the first ExCo meeting for the term of 2022/23.

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON, VICE-CHAIRPERSON(S), HON. TREASURER AND HON. LEGAL ADVISOR

2. Mr. Chua reported to Members on nominations received for the election of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson(s), Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Legal Advisor. With unanimous support from Members present, the Hon. Bernard Chan was elected to be the Chairperson, Ms. Yvonne Chak and Mr. Kennedy Liu the Vice-chairpersons, Ms. Elizabeth Law the Hon. Treasurer, and Mr. Larry Kwok to be the Hon. Legal Advisor. All positions were elected to serve for a term of one year from 2022 to 2023.

(The Chairperson, the Hon. Bernard Chan, took chair of the Meeting at this point of time)

DATES OF MEETINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

3. In accordance with the Constitution of the Council, the Executive Committee should hold not less than 6 meetings each year and following the past practice, the below proposed schedule of ExCo meetings would be adopted for the term of 2022/23:

1st Meeting	16 December 2022	5:00 p.m.
2nd Meeting*	13 February 2023*	6:00 p.m.*

3rd Meeting	3 April 2023	5:00 p.m.
4th Meeting	5 June 2023	5:00 p.m.
5th Meeting	31 July 2023	5:00 p.m.
6th Meeting	25 September 2023	5:00 p.m.

Members were invited to note that 2nd ExCo meeting to be held on 13 February 2023 would start at 6:00 p.m., immediately after the annual Extended Governance meeting. A meeting notice with more details would be sent to Members in due course.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

- Minutes of the last meeting dated 26 September 2022 were confirmed with no amendment.

MATTERS ARISING

Counsel's Opinion on 1% Subvention Cut

- Subsequent to reporting on the Counsel's opinion to Members at the last ExCo Meeting in December 2022, Mr. Chua updated that Members' views were noted, and together with advice sought from office-bearers and Ms. Melissa Pang on the matter, a letter had been written to the Chief Executive of HKSAR, and copied to the Financial Secretary and Secretary for Labour and Welfare. The letter had expressed the sector's deep concerns over the across-the-board 1% reduction of subventions, and that professional opinions had clarified the nature of the LSG contractual arrangements between the Government and NGOs. Thus, the Council was appealing to the Government for the consideration that, when the economic situation improved in future, the subvention could be reinstated to pre-1% cut level. The letter had also emphasized the need to building a trusting and harmonious relationship between the Government and NGOs, in the interest of all stakeholders and the wider community. Mr. Chua would report to Members should an official reply be received from the Government.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION AND APPROVAL

To note the Chief Executive's Progress Report

- Mr. Chua highlighted and provided supplementary information to Members on the progress report.
 - Yip Shing Street Project
Mr. Anthony Wong, Business Director, reported that because of a delay in the construction works, the project had not been completed. The Council's social housing team had been liaising with the main contractor and the MiC suppliers involved, to closely monitor the work progress in order that the building's occupation permit could be obtained. Mitigation arrangements including special allowance would be provided to tenant households being affected by the unexpected delay. With no further questions, Members noted the Chief Executive's Progress Report.

To note the Position of Funds

- Reported by the Ms. Elizabeth Law, Hon. Treasurer, the Position of Funds was noted and received by Members.

To note the Election Results of the Executive Committee for 2022/24 and 4 Standing Committees for 2022/23

- Members noted the election results of the Executive Committee and 4 Standing Committees respectively for the term of 2022/24 and 2022/23.

To note and approve the Signing Authorization for Contracts and Instruments entered into by the Council

- Members noted and approved to delegate the Chief Executive with signing authorization for contracts and instruments entered into by the Council. It was noted that a system of checks

and balances would be in place when decisions were made and from time to time, and the Chief Executive would report to ExCo, seeking Members' professional advice. The authorization would remain valid until the commencement of 1st ExCo meeting after the next Annual General Meeting of the Council.

To approve the New Signing Authorization of the HKCSS Bank Accounts

10. Members noted and approved the new signing authorization of the bank accounts for the Council.

To note and approve Delegation to the Chief Executive with Signing Authorization for entering into Tenancy Agreement

11. Members noted and approved that the Chief Executive be authorized by the ExCo to sign the tenancy agreements and all other relevant documents relating thereby on behalf of the HKCSS. The tenancy agreements would be entered into with, (1) The Urban Renewal Authority and (2) Lands Department.

To note and approve Appointment of Members for Steering and Advisory Committees for 2022/23

12. Members noted and approved the appointment of members for Steering and Advisory Committees being presented for the term of 2022/23.

To note and approve Agency Membership Application

13. After discussion, Members noted and accepted the recommendation and membership team would proceed to handle relevant applications accordingly.

To note and approve Update on HKCSS Committee Restructuring

14. Mr. Chua Hoi Wai, Chief Executive, together with Mr. Kennedy Liu, Vice-Chairperson and also Chairman of the working group on committee restructuring, had recapped the main discussions over the past months on the Council's proposed changes on governance committee structure, in alignment with the endorsed recommendations of the McKinsey Consultancy Study, wherein a new vision, position, and "1+3" strategic blueprint were adopted to steer the Council in addressing the social challenges in the next 5-10 years.

Members were invited to note and endorse the changes to the committee structure of HKCSS, which proposed to merge the existing four standing committees into two, allowing more integrated efforts in the Council's work on social development and sector development, while ensuring thorough participation of agency members. Mr. Liu supplemented that in relation to the merging of standing committees, it would be transitionally arranged until the next Annual General meeting in 2023, so as to facilitate an effective migration into the new structure. On the implementation of the new strategic blueprint, it was proposed that three strategy committees, viz., Strategy Committee on Co-creation, on Tech-enablement and on Talent Development, would be formed, and terms of reference of all these committees were also being proposed.

Views of Members were noted and in summary, they had suggested that in preparing for the new committee structure to be smoothly implemented, the management should consider how different committees' specified roles and functions, as spelt out in respective TORs, could be effectively facilitated and rationalized. They commented that inter-relationships of different standing and strategy committees and the line functions being charted in between should be clearly differentiated and defined, in order to avoid confusion such as, topics of discussion being overlapped. There was also a suggestion that during the transitional period, a few agency members would have participated in more than one governance committee, thus the management was suggested to ensure a better coordination on overall members' participation.

Mr. Chua thanked Members for the thorough discussion. With no further comments, the aforesaid proposed changes being mentioned in paragraph 6 and 7 of the discussion paper,

and the terms of reference of Standing Committees and Strategy Committees attached in annexes II and III, were endorsed.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

15. Annual Extended Governance Meeting on 13 February 2023

Mr. Chua reminded that the annual Extended Governance meeting was scheduled for 13 February 2023 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., and 2nd ExCo meeting to be held immediately after. Meeting invitations to all members of ExCo and Standing Committees, chairperson and vice-chairperson of Specialized Committees would be sent accordingly.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

16. The next meeting was scheduled for 13 February 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.