

**THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE**  
**Executive Committee 2024/25**

Minutes of 3rd Meeting of the Executive Committee for 2024/25 held on Tuesday, 18 March, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. at Room 201, 2/F., Duke of Windsor Social Service Building, 15 Hennessy Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong.

Present : Revd Canon Hon. Peter Douglas Koon (Chairperson)  
Ms. Yvonne Chak                      Hon. Bernard Chan  
Ms. Queenie Chan                    Ms. Chan Siu Lai  
Ms. Kitty Chau                        Mrs. Angela Chiu  
Mr. Thomas Chu                       Ms. Hsu Siu Man  
Mr. Larry Kwok                        Dr. Hon. Lam Ching Choi  
Mr. Billie Lau                          Mrs. Patricia Lau  
Ms. Elizabeth Law                    Ms. Joyce Lee  
Dr. Kennedy Liu                        Mr. Henry Ng  
Ms. Bonnie So                         Dr. Hon. Tik Chi Yuen  
Dr. Wan Lap Man

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

Apologies : Mr. Benny Cheung                    Mr. Cooke Cheung  
Mr. Raymond Chiu                    Ms. Lau Sze Fan  
Ms. Anthea Lee                        Ms. Carmen Lee  
Dr. CC Luk                               Ms. Melissa Pang

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

1. The minutes of the last meetings dated 21 January and 28 February 2025 were confirmed with no amendment.

**MATTERS ARISING**

2. No matters arising to be reported.

**MATTERS FOR INFORMATION AND APPROVAL**

To note the Chief Executive's Progress Report

3. Mr. Chua highlighted and provided supplementary information to Members on the progress report.

**3.1 Budget Cut and Productivity Enhancement Programme of the 2025-26 Budget**

Mr. Chua reported that the Financial Secretary's recently announced budget had included the Productivity Enhancement Programme, which mandated all government departments and policy bureaus to reduce recurrent expenditures by 7% annually from 2024-25 to 2027-28.

In response, a letter was sent by the Council on behalf of Agency Members to the Secretary for Labour and Welfare Bureau, highlighting the social welfare sector's deep

concerns regarding this measure. The letter also acknowledged the prompt support initiatives introduced by the Bureau and the Social Welfare Department.

The Council hoped the government would continue to engage with the sector to explore further mitigation strategies to ease the financial pressures on NGOs. Mr. Chua noted that additional feedback would be gathered from the sector, particularly during the Agency Heads meeting, with the collected opinions to be consolidated and communicated to the government.

### 3.2 S+ Summit cum Expo 2025 (20 to 21 May)

Mr. Chua highlighted that the S+Summit cum Expo 2025 was scheduled for May 20-21, featuring over 30 symposiums, seminars, and workshops, with 162 exhibitors participating across five themed zones aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A premiere of the Champions for Good Awards ceremony was set to take place in the evening of 21 May in a dinner format. Members of the Executive Committee were invited to attend, and further details would be announced in due course.

### 3.3 Modular Social Housing

Mr. Chua reported that the Yen Chow Street modular housing project, managed by St. James' Settlement (SJS), was in the process of contract renewal negotiations before its expiry at the end of May 2025. Given SJS's service performance and their relationship with the tenants, it would be advantageous to engage SJS again. Mr. Chua also reported that a Selection Panel formed by the Steering Committee for Social Housing had been engaged to review the proposals submitted by SJS for the operation of the Yen Chow Street modular housing project for 2025-2027.

The Members of ExCo noted with no objections that the Council would not proceed with tendering for a service operator again, provided that SJS's budget and service proposal were eventually deemed reasonable. Mr. Chua further pointed out that the Office Bearers of ExCo would be consulted as necessary if SJS's proposal and budget were ultimately considered unreasonable, and the Council deemed it necessary to call for tenders for a new service provider.

### To note and approve the Position of Funds

4. Ms. Elizabeth Law, Honorary Treasurer, provided an update on the Council's financial status as of January and February 2025. This report included details on the positions of the reserves, fund balances, budgets, and the current status of ongoing projects. The performance of the Tracker Fund was also reported. The report on the Positions of Funds was noted and received by members, with no further questions raised.

### To note and approve Agency Membership Application

5. Members noted and endorsed the membership applications of the following agencies:
  - Learning Bridge Association Limited 籽橋社協會有限公司
  - Fullness in Christ Fellowship Limited 基督豐榮團契有限公司
  - Hong Kong Development Foundation for disables Limited 香港傷殘人士發展基金會有限公司
  - Sunshine Action Limited 耀陽行動有限公司

Based on the deliberations of the Members, the Chairperson decided that one agency membership application would need further review and clarifications. The Membership team would investigate after additional communication with the agency.

### To note and approve the Change of Name of an Agency Member

6. Members noted and endorsed the application for the change of name of the below Agency Member:

- Hong Kong Rugby Union Community Foundation Limited 香港欖球總會社區基金有限公司

To note and approve the Termination / Withdrawal of Agency Membership

7. Members noted and endorsed the application of withdrawal of agency membership of the below Agency Members:

- Hong Kong Unison Limited 香港融樂會有限公司
- Why You Why Me Charity Foundation Co., Limited 你心我心慈善基金有限公司

To note and approve Amendment to the Tenancy Agreement No. PM P1070 (Address: 1/F, 2/F, 3/F, 4/F, and 5/F of No. 103 Electric Road) and the Authorization of the Council's Chief Executive to sign the Acceptance Docket with the Common Seal of the Council

8. Members noted the explanations provided by Mr. Anthony Wong, Business Director, and approved the amendment to be made to the Tenancy Agreement No. PM P1070, (Address: 1/F, 2/F, 3/F, 4/F, and 5/F of No. 103 Electric Road), as well as the authorization of the Council's Chief Executive to sign the acceptance docket with the common seal of the Council.

**MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION**

HKCSS Budget 2025-26 and 10-Year Financial Projection

9. Ms. Elizabeth Law, Honorary Treasurer, presented the proposed budget, total income, and expenditure for 2025-26, along with explanations and justifications. The proposed budget indicated a projected deficit of around \$457,000, considering the implementation of the reduction from Snapshot Salary to Benchmark Salary that had been in effect since 2012-13. It was also expected that there would be no salary adjustment in 2025-26, which would be reflected in Personal Emoluments and related expenses.

It was highlighted that total expenses for the program were expected to rise considerably due to the S+Summit cum Expo 2025 and the Champions for Good Awards Ceremony 2025, both scheduled for May 2025.

It was noted that the Lump Sum Grant (LSG) subvention would be subject to a 1% reduction from 2022/23 onwards, but there would be no further reductions in 2024/25 (1%), 2025/26 (2%), and 2026/27 (3%), as per the relief arrangements for NGOs receiving subventions of less than \$50 million, as advised by the SWD in March 2024.

After discussion, Members had no further inquiries and received and endorsed the HKCSS Budget for 2025-26. The 10-year financial projection would be reported to Members at the next meeting scheduled for 27 May.

HKCSS Business Plan 2025-26

10. Mr. Chua presented the HKCSS Business Plan for 2025-26, highlighting the strategic objectives for 2025-28, which were preliminarily established, allowing for flexible decisions to be made by the incoming new Chief Executive of the Council, whose position would take effect on 1 April. This approach was intended to adapt to changing circumstances if a review of directions was warranted. The current objectives proposed included:

- I. **Agenda Setting** - Advocating for policy and service responses to selected social agendas, in partnership with the social service sector and key stakeholders. One highlighted agenda prioritized was the Council's response to the budget cut issue, where innovative measures were explored for income generation and cost reduction to meet community needs while maintaining quality service delivery.
- II. **Co-creation** - Joint efforts within HKCSS and across the sector to develop innovative approaches to address underserved social issues. Under co-creation, the S+Summit cum Expo and the revamp of the Caring Company scheme were emphasized, with efforts focused on promoting intra-sectoral and cross-sectoral partnerships to enhance

social service development and sustainable development under the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) framework.

- III. **Tech-enablement** - Improving the sector's technological capability for more efficient and modernized service delivery, as well as service planning and advocacy. Significant agendas included data-driven strategies to promote the concept of an Age-friendly City and the implementation of a tele-practice platform in collaboration with NGOs, along with the adoption of Gerontech in various services to address the needs of elderly individuals and other target groups.
- IV. **Talent Development** - Developing new initiatives for talent acquisition, development, and retention at HKCSS and within the sector. The continual implementation of the "JC InnoPower Social Welfare Fellowship" aimed to enhance senior management's leadership and competence, while surveys and research were conducted to improve NGO governance and strengthen capacity-building support, particularly for small NGOs.

Members noted and endorsed the proposed HKCSS Business Plan for 2025-26, with no further inquiries made.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **The HKCSS Provident Fund and Life Insurance Plan**

11. It was noted that before discussions began, a Member had declared his interests in the issue and sought approval from the Chairperson to refrain from participating in the discussion. The Chairperson acknowledged and confirmed this.

Ms. Cheung Lai Wah, Business Director, delivered a presentation regarding the proposed cessation of ORSO and private retirement plan operations from Principal, effective by the end of 2025. The presentation updated Members on the latest developments of the occupational retirement schemes (ORSO), including background information, the count of active members in the scheme, a timeline of actions taken, future plans of the agencies concerned, alternative solutions provided by Principal, deliberations from the consultative session with agencies on March 17, core concerns and questions related to responses from Principal and MPFA, as well as future follow-up actions of the Council regarding the issue.

After deliberations, the overall views from Members indicated that the proposed decision to cease operations of ORSO by Principal was inevitable and could not be reversed due to their business decision.

Additionally, it was noted that Principal's views had included, according to the Trust Deed, they could unilaterally resign from the trustee position without needing to bear any compensation. Furthermore, even if other agencies agreed to transfer to a different scheme provider, whether MPF or ORSO, Principal could not guarantee returns equivalent to or higher than those of the existing plan.

Besides, key concerns and questions regarding responses from Principal and MPFA, as well as the Council's future follow-up actions on this matter, were also presented and discussed. Some Members had expressed that it might be time for NGOs to consider opting out of their scheme and finding a suitable moment to dissolve the ORSO for a better transition to a new scheme. It was further noted that some agencies at the consultation session had remarked that most had not yet communicated with their staff.

Understanding the expectations from Agencies, the Council would continue to act as a bridge while maintaining contact with Principal to negotiate better alternative arrangements to facilitate a smooth transition to an agreed solution. In particular, for small NGOs, the Council would also continue exploring resource pooling for more alternative options through other

approved trustees in light of the dwindling demand for ORSO in the market. More updates would follow as they became available.

12. The Chairperson, on behalf of the Executive Committee Members, acknowledged that this was the last meeting of Mr. Chua Hoi Wai before his retirement as Chief Executive of the Council. Members applauded and expressed deep gratitude for his exceptional leadership and unwavering dedication to the Council and the sector over the past years.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

13. The next meeting was scheduled for 27 May 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.