

Meeting of the Executive Committee on the Community Care Fund
30 December 2010

Summary of Discussion

The Executive Committee on the Community Care Fund held its first meeting on 30 December 2010. A summary of the discussion is as follows.

- (1) Members were reminded of the confidential nature of the meeting papers and requested to refrain from commenting on the papers before the meeting. Members might disclose to the media their own views after the meeting but should not quote what others said at the meeting.
- (2) Members agreed with the proposed two-tier system of declaration of interests for Members of the Executive Committee and Sub-committees (including co-opted Members) i.e. Members would be required to register their personal interests on appointment to the committee, and annually thereafter, by filling in a declaration form, and to declare any direct personal or pecuniary interest related to matters under deliberation. The registers of Members' interests would be uploaded to the CCF website and kept by the Secretariat for public inspection.
- (3) Members agreed that a central secretariat should be set up at HAB to be led by an Administrative Officer Staff Grade C to provide secretariat service to all the Sub-committees in addition to the Steering Committee and Executive Committee. Members also agreed with the approach of reimbursing to HAB from the Fund the staffing and direct administrative expenses for the CCF Secretariat, and reimbursing to bureaux/ departments the dedicated staffing and direct administrative expenses incurred for the implementation of assistance programmes under the CCF.
- (4) Members noted and agreed with the proposed timetable of submission to the Establishment Sub-committee of the Legislative Council (LegCo) on the creation of the Directorate post in mid-February, and

submission to the Finance Committee on the injection of public monies into the CCF and the post creation altogether in early May.

- (5) Members agreed to organise two public consultations sessions in January, followed by focus group meetings conducted by the Sub-committees in February/ March if necessary.
- (6) Members agreed that the Steering Committee should focus on drawing up specific programmes for target beneficiary groups at the initial stage of operation of the Fund, and the Secretariat should not process individual applications seeking assistance from the CCF. The individual applications which fell outside the approved programmes by the Steering Committee would be referred by the Secretariat to the relevant Government departments/ agencies for any assistance that might be provided under the existing system. Depending on the number of similar applications, the Sub-committees might consider if new programmes should be introduced to accommodate those needs on a systemic basis.
- (7) Members agreed that the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) should be entrusted to help invest the funds.
- (8) Members agreed that the indicative amounts to be disbursed from the Fund would be \$500 million in the first year (2011-12), and \$1 billion annually from the second year to the sixth year.
- (9) Members noted the requirement set by HKMA to deposit the same amount of capital which could not be withdrawn for a six-year period. Members agreed that we should discuss with HKMA further for a more flexible arrangement to maximise the returns to the CCF.
- (10) Members agreed with the proposed operational principles of the Sub-committees in drawing up assistance programmes (e.g. The measures should serve to supplement or fill the gaps of the regular assistance and service programmes and be implemented on a pilot basis for identification purposes. However, such measures should not be in direct conflict with the Government's established policies and the approach of “dealing with the simple issues before tackling the difficult ones” should be adopted.)

- (11) Members agreed that the indicative amount available for allocation by each Sub-committee would be \$100 million in 2011-12. The allocation of the remaining \$100 million would be determined by the Steering Committee having regard to the recommendation by the Executive Committee on the priority of assistance programmes proposed by the Sub-committees.
- (12) Members noted that the capital might be deployed in accordance with the principle of financial prudence in response to needs. The decision to dip into the capital should be made by the Steering Committee.
- (13) Members agreed that more systematic evaluation of the effectiveness of the CCF initiative should be conducted in due course after accumulation of more data and information. The Fund might consider assigning a consultant (e.g. an academic institution) to conduct such evaluation studies.