

**The Third Meeting of the Home Affairs Sub-committee on
the Community Care Fund
22 March 2011**

Summary of Discussion

The Home Affairs Sub-committee on the Community Care Fund (CCF) held its third meeting on 22 March 2011. A summary of discussion is as follows:

1. Members noted that the Financial Secretary had announced an additional injection into the CCF to provide assistance to new arrivals (NAs) with financial needs.
2. Members made preliminary discussion on the proposed additional injection for the programme of providing a one-off allowance to NAs of low-income families entering Hong Kong for settlement and gave the following suggestions:
 - (1) The level of the one-off allowance should be set at \$6,000.
 - (2) NAs benefiting from the programme should be aged 18 or above and had entered Hong Kong for settlement.
 - (3) Applicants should pass a means test.

The Secretariat would conduct further study on the views of Members and the implementation details accordingly. Members agreed that the programme proposal should be submitted to the Executive Committee and the Steering Committee.

3. Regarding the pilot scheme of providing financial assistance to low-income ethnic minorities (EMs) and NAs from the Mainland entering Hong Kong for settlement for taking language related international public examinations, Members noted the following arrangements:

- (1) A non-governmental organisation or local organisation should be entrusted for the implementation of the programme.
- (2) Applicants might apply for full reimbursement of the examination fee on an accountable basis.
- (3) The pilot scheme would run for 2 years and the expenditure including the administrative cost would be about \$3.2 million.

Members agreed that the programme proposal should be submitted to the Executive Committee.

4. Members discussed the proposed programme of providing language courses for EMs and NAs from the Mainland entering Hong Kong for settlement and advised the Home Affairs Department (HAD) to conduct further study on detailed operational arrangements, including course content and period that could meet the needs of target beneficiaries, and entrusting relevant implementation agencies, etc. Members agreed to propose to the Executive Committee that \$30 million should be earmarked for the programme.