

The Fourth Meeting of the Steering Committee on the Community Care Fund 17 October 2011

Summary of Discussion

The Steering Committee on the Community Care Fund (CCF) held its fourth meeting on 17 October 2011. A summary of the discussion is as follows:

1. Members noted the implementation progress of CCF's assistance programmes. Of the 10 CCF assistance programmes launched by the Steering Committee (SC) in April 2011, 6 of them had already been rolled out. Moreover, CCF rolled out the programme to provide a \$6,000 allowance to eligible new arrivals (the Programme), which had been open for applications since early October. The Programme had received about 40 000 applications and allowance was expected to be disbursed to eligible applicants from November onwards.
2. Members endorsed the proposal of setting aside \$30 million to launch the programme of "Subsidy for non-school-attending ethnic minorities and new arrivals from the Mainland participating in language courses". Details of the programme included:
 - (1) The programme would be implemented on a pilot basis by providing a subsidy to low-income and non-school-attending ethnic minorities and new arrivals to take language training courses run by the Employees' Retraining Board (ERB), so as to encourage them to enrol in and complete the courses.
 - (2) Beneficiaries should attain an attendance rate of at least 80% in the course concerned.
 - (3) The estimated subsidy amount would be ranged from \$350 to \$700.
 - (4) The household of beneficiaries should either have passed the means tests of specified assistance schemes, or that its monthly household income did not exceed 75% of the median monthly domestic household income applicable to their relevant household size.

- (5) Beneficiaries might only apply for the course subsidy twice a year and not more than 4 times in 3 years.
 - (6) Non-governmental organisations or local groups would be commissioned to handle matters regarding the course subsidy.
3. Members endorsed the proposal of setting aside \$4.5 million to launch the programme of “Relocation allowance for residents of sub-divided units in industrial buildings who would have to move out as a result of the Buildings Department’s (BD) enforcement action”, so as to help such residents move out of sub-divided units in industrial buildings as soon as possible. Details of the programme included:
- (1) The allowance for 1-person households would be \$2,100, while the allowances for 2-3-person households and 4-or-more-person households would be \$4,600 and \$6,100 respectively.
 - (2) The household of beneficiaries should either have passed the means tests of specified assistance schemes, or that its monthly household income did not exceed 75% of the median monthly domestic household income applicable to their relevant household size.
 - (3) Allowance recipients would not receive the allowance again in the future.
 - (4) Staff of BD would register the households concerned during the course of law enforcement actions.

In addition, Members agreed in principle that the BD would submit proposals to CCF regarding expanding the scope of the programme to residential and composite buildings, with reference to the actual experience and effectiveness of implementing the programme in respect of industrial buildings.