

The Third Meeting of the Steering Committee on the Community Care Fund on 29 June 2011

Summary of Discussion

The Steering Committee on the Community Care Fund (CCF) held its third meeting on 29 June 2011. A summary of the discussion is as follows:

1. Members noted the budget monitoring and administrative arrangements endorsed by the Executive Committee regarding such aspects on budgetary control, recording, auditing and reporting.
2. Members endorsed the use of additional injection for the programme to provide a one-off allowance to new arrivals from low-income families (the Programme) who were aged 18 or above and had entered Hong Kong for settlement. Details of the Programme included:
 - (1) The Programme served to provide additional resources to new arrivals from low-income families who were aged 18 or above and had entered Hong Kong for settlement to help them adapt and integrate into the community as soon as possible, and better prepare themselves for permanent settlement in Hong Kong.
 - (2) The Programme did not cover those who entered Hong Kong for purposes other than settlement and those who were under custody.
 - (3) Given that the Programme was one-off in nature, a more relaxed approach would be adopted, with the specified income limit fixed with reference to the median monthly domestic household income.
 - (4) The specified income limit would be set on the basis of the median monthly domestic household income in the first quarter of the year. Considering that the relevant income limit for one-person households on this basis (\$6,500) was apparently on the low side when compared with that applicable to two-person households, the specified income limit applicable to one-person households was adjusted upwards to \$7,300 (i.e. half of that applicable to two-person

households).

- (5) If an applicant or family members residing with the applicant had not passed the means tests for specified assistance schemes, the applicant should make a “written declaration” that the household income was lower than the specified income limit. He/she was not required to make a “statutory declaration” in person at a specified location. The Secretariat would conduct comprehensive income checks on randomly selected cases.
- (6) The amount of allowance would be set at \$6,000.
- (7) Applicants might receive the allowance through direct payment into a bank account in their sole-names or collect the allowance in the form of an order cheque.
- (8) Implementing the Programme would involve an amount of approximately \$1.5 billion (including administrative expenses and contingency). Unused funds (including interest), if any, would be returned to the Government after the completion of the Programme.