The Tenth Meeting of the Second-term Community Care Fund Task Force 19 January 2017

Summary of Discussion

The Community Care Fund (CCF) Task Force (Task Force) under the second-term Commission on Poverty held its tenth meeting on 19 January 2017. A summary of the discussion is as follows:

1. Members noted the progress report of existing assistance programmes and the latest financial position of the CCF, and agreed on the estimates for staff and administrative costs of the CCF Secretariat and the Social Welfare Department in 2017-18.

2. There are views in the community that the One-off living subsidy for low-income households not living in public housing and not receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) programme (the Programme) should be relaunched, and Members had a discussion on it. The Chairman reiterated that the Programme was launched by the CCF in the light of the short-term relief measures introduced by the Budget released in the financial year of the launch, to provide a one-off cash subsidy to the “N have-nots” who could not benefit from such measures. However, as fewer short-term relief measures were announced in the 2016-17 Budget, there was insufficient justification for the CCF to provide a cash subsidy again to the low-income “N have-nots” not living in public housing and not receiving CSSA. Members noted the situation.

3. Noting that the Government in the 2017 Policy Address invited the CCF to consider launching six new assistance programmes, Members gave their initial comments on some of the proposed programmes. They also urged relevant bureaux or departments to draw up details of those programmes as soon as possible for discussion by the Task Force.