
Chapter 1

Policy Agenda

Introduction

During the past year, in keeping with the new philosophy of governance stated by the Chief Executive in her first Policy Address and based on the principles of “Innovative, Interactive and Collaborative”, the current-term Government is striving to rebuild mutual trust with different sectors and has implemented a series of people-oriented measures to build a better and more harmonious Hong Kong.

In the second Policy Agenda of the current-term Government, we have set out 244 new initiatives and 470 on-going initiatives. Apart from allocating resources for improving people’s livelihood, we will continue to perform the Government’s roles as “facilitator” and “promoter”. On the one hand, we will reinforce and enhance the advantages of traditional industries such as finance, transportation, logistics, tourism and professional services. On the other hand, we will promote innovation and technology so as to inject new impetus into the economy. With the commissioning of the Hong Kong Section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link on 22 September 2018, Hong Kong has been connected to our country’s highly efficient and accessible transport network and brought closer to other cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area). We will seize this opportunity to identify

breakthroughs in the development of our local economy, livelihood and youths.

On enhancing governance, we recognise that many major issues require the holistic steer of the senior leadership in the Government in formulating forward-looking and inter-departmental strategies. As such, we have established the Chief Executive's Council of Advisers on Innovation and Strategic Development and the Steering Committee on Innovation and Technology, both chaired by the Chief Executive, for promoting development of the economy and innovation and technology in Hong Kong. To build an inclusive society and cater for the needs of various community groups, the Youth Development Commission and the Commission on Children, both led by the Chief Secretary for Administration, were set up in the first half of 2018. Meanwhile, the Commission for the Planning of Human Resources and the Steering Committee on Ethnic Minorities Affairs, also chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, have initiated their work. The Financial Leaders Forum with the Financial Secretary at the helm has also commenced studies on different issues on financial development.

Furthermore, the current-term Government has re-organised the Innovation and Technology Bureau and the Efficiency Unit, and reallocated the legal aid policy portfolio to the purview of the Chief Secretary for Administration's Office. The newly set up Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office (PICO) is also playing an active role in assisting the Chief Executive in driving policy innovation and co-ordinating various cross-bureau policy research and projects.

As for economic development, we will leverage our advantages under "one country, two systems" and, with the staunch support of the Central Government, actively participate in the Belt and Road Initiative and the development of the Greater Bay Area. We have also been driving the further diversification of our economy, and provided

additional funding for the development of innovation and technology and other sectors.

For the livelihood area, land and housing issues remain the toughest and most complicated challenge facing the current-term Government. Since the launch of various measures to rebuild the home ownership ladder for Hong Kong people in the last Policy Address, the Chief Executive announced six new initiatives in housing policy in June this year. All these, together with the strategies to increase land supply set out in this Policy Agenda, fully display the current-term Government's grasp of people's urgent needs, and its decisive and courageous style of governance.

Nurturing our younger generation is an important task of the current-term Government. Apart from injecting resources into education and training of talent, we have also rolled out a host of initiatives to support young people in respect of education, career pursuit and home ownership, and encourage their participation in politics, public policy discussion and debate. These initiatives include providing more internship and exchange opportunities on the Mainland and overseas for young people, providing space and support for them to start businesses. We have also provided young people with opportunities to participate in public administration. Both the Pilot Member Self-recommendation Scheme for Youth and recruitment of young people to work in PICO have achieved good results, allowing young people to inject innovative new thoughts into the governance of Hong Kong.

Our efforts over the past year have made a good start for us, but we still face a number of challenges, such as the impact of the trade friction between China and the United States on Hong Kong, ageing population, environmental pollution, growing demand for medical services and transport infrastructure. With the shortage of land supply being the biggest constraint on Hong Kong's future development, the

Government must make bold decisions and further deepen various policy measures with the best overall interests of Hong Kong as the paramount concern, so as to improve people's livelihood.

We hope to join hands with all sectors of the community to overcome difficulties and demonstrate our can-do spirit, thereby building Hong Kong as a liveable city full of hope and happiness.