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**Improve People's Livelihood
in Pursuit of Happiness**



Background

The Government puts a central priority on enhancing the well-being of the people of Hong Kong. We have taken a family-centric approach to our people's aspiration for a good life, and we are dedicated to building a harmonious society, one that is both caring and inclusive.

We will continue to enhance our speed, quantity, quality and efficiency in creating land and building homes, creating a land reserve and strengthening the Government's capabilities to spearhead development and respond to unforeseen changes. We will cater to the pressing housing needs of the people of Hong Kong, having identified sufficient land to meet the housing supply target for the next decade, while offering complementary measures such as Light Public Housing to respond to the temporary shortage from our back-loaded supply. Last year, I set up the Task Force on Tackling the Issue of Subdivided Units (SDUs). In this Policy Address, I announce my decision to establish a regulatory regime on the rental of SDUs through legislation. It will tackle the "long-standing, big and difficult" problem of SDUs in residential buildings at the root and in an orderly manner. We will continue to enrich the housing ladder to help more people realise their goals of home ownership.

On people's livelihoods, we will maintain the strategy of targeted poverty alleviation. We have established Care Teams, with a focus on meeting the diverse needs of underprivileged groups and ethnic minorities, helping them integrate into the community. In healthcare, we have released the Primary Healthcare Blueprint to progressively shift from a treatment-oriented to a prevention-focused approach. And we will reform our public healthcare system to ensure better access to medical care. In the 2024-25 Estimates, the recurrent expenditure on social welfare and healthcare amounts to \$236.9 billion, accounting for more than 30% of government expenditure and about 7.5% of the Gross Domestic Product. That clearly demonstrates the Government's commitment to these two essential areas.

Nonetheless, when it comes to people's livelihood and well-being, what is good can always be better. We will continue to enhance the speed and efficiency in land creation and housing provision, as well as facilitating urban renewal, having regard to fiscal affordability. We will, as well, encourage collaboration among government, business and the community, refining policy measures to help the disadvantaged under the "people-centric" principle. In parallel, we will continue to reform our healthcare system to better serve the public, making optimal use of finite resources. Our goal is to improve people's livelihood and build a better future for us all.

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Public Housing

Future supply

- Increase public housing (including Light Public Housing (LPH)) production in the next five years from 2025-26 to 2029-30 to about 189 000 units, about 80% more than the five-year period when the current term Government assumed office (i.e. from 2022-23 to 2026-27). (HB)
- Continue to publish regularly the supply forecast of public housing and land supply in the coming 10 years, so as to enhance transparency and facilitate monitoring of work. (HB, DEVB)

Light Public Housing

- Complete the construction of about 30 000 LPH units under a government-led approach by 2027-28, including about 9 500 units to be completed within 2025. (HB)

Transitional housing

- The Government has identified land for providing over 21 000 transitional housing units, exceeding the original target of 20 000 units. In addition to the 17 900 units which have been put into service, close to 3 300 units are expected to be available from 2024 to 2026. (HB)

Public Rental Housing Advance Allocation Scheme

- Continue to advance the completion of about 14 000 public rental housing (PRH) units in phases from 2023-24 to 2032-33, making them available about 3 to 18 months ahead of the completion date of the whole development project and enabling PRH applicants to move in earlier than scheduled. (HB)

Private Subsidised Sale Flat - Pilot Scheme

- Continue to implement the Private Subsidised Sale Flat-Pilot Scheme to encourage private developers to develop subsidised sale flats (SSFs) and tap market forces to enhance the construction capacity. (HB)

Enhancing the housing ladder

- Review the public housing projects scheduled for the latter half of the coming 10-year period (2025-26 to 2034-35) so as to gradually adjust the PRH/SSF split from the current 70:30 to 60:40. (HB)
- Allocate an extra ballot number to applicants who failed to purchase a SSF in the last two consecutive sale exercises of the same type of SSF starting from the next Green Form Subsidised Home Ownership Scheme and Home Ownership Scheme (HOS) sale exercises. (HB)

- Tighten up the Well-off Tenants Policies of PRH by raising the additional rent and lowering the income limits for well-off tenants, prompting them to surrender their units. (HB)
- Starting from the next HOS sale exercise, adjust the ratio for quota allocation between Green Form and White Form applicants from the existing 40:60 to 50:50 to encourage more PRH tenants to buy HOS flats. (HB)

Combating PRH tenancy abuse

- The Hong Kong Housing Authority (HKHA) will continue to require PRH tenants to make biennial declarations on whether they own any domestic property in Hong Kong and whether they have continuously resided in the flats and complied with the terms in the tenancy agreement regarding occupancy status. (HB)
- Continue to verify the records of PRH tenants in respect of their property ownership in Hong Kong via the mechanism established with the Land Registry; and keep enhancing communication with the Mainland authorities/agencies regarding the investigation of lands/properties owned by PRH tenants in the Mainland. (HB)
- The HKHA will launch a Cherish Public Housing Resources Award Scheme in January 2025 to offer award to informants who make non-anonymous reports with solid intelligence leading to successful recovery of abused PRH flats by the Housing Department. (HB)

Continuing to redevelop PRH estates

- The HKHA will continue to take forward the redevelopment of Wah Fu Estate, and will announce the findings of the study on the redevelopment of Choi Hung Estate by end-2024, and the findings of the studies on the redevelopment of Sai Wan Estate and Ma Tau Wai Estate within 2025. (HB)

Tackling the issue of subdivided units

- Establish, through legislation, a regulatory regime on the renting of residential subdivided units (SDUs), under which up-to-standard residential SDUs will be named as “Basic Housing Units”. That is, residential SDUs must meet the required standards in respect of area, fire safety, ventilation and hygiene etc., before they are allowed to be rented out. The renting of substandard SDUs will be illegal, which will be eradicated in an orderly manner having regard to the market supply and demand and the supply of public housing. (HB)
- Consult the Legislative Council (LegCo) and stakeholders in respect of the regulatory regime on the renting of residential SDUs, covering, amongst others, the legislative proposal and registration timetable. The proposal includes setting up a registration regime for pre-existing SDUs under rental, allowing a “grace period” for owners of registered SDUs to carry out conversion works, putting in place a regime for applications to be recognised as “Basic Housing Units”, etc., with a view to gradually improving the living conditions of SDUs. (HB)
- Review the building and fire safety standards in licensed bedspace apartments and consider enhancing the building and fire safety standards in the premises concerned to meet modern requirements, so as to provide better protection for residents. (HYAB)

Private Housing

Future supply

- Make land available for the production of 80 000 housing units through land sale or railway property development in the next five years. Coupled with projects of the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) and private development projects, private housing land will be supplied in a sustained and orderly manner. (DEVB)

Relax the maximum loan-to-value ratios of property mortgages

- The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) will relax the mortgage conditions for residential properties on the premise of maintaining the stability of the banking system. It will adjust the maximum loan-to-value ratio of property mortgages to 70% and the maximum debt servicing ratio to 50%, regardless of the value of the properties, whether the properties are for self-use or held by companies, or whether the purchasers are first-time home buyers. The maximum loan-to-value ratio and the maximum debt servicing ratio for non-residential property mortgages will also be adjusted accordingly. (FSO)

Improving Building Safety and Building Management

Enhancing property management and building design

- Expand the Building Management Professional Advisory Service Scheme to all districts, thereby providing more sustained support for the “three-nil” buildings. (HYAB)
- Implement the Joint Property Management Pilot Scheme on a small scale in selected areas within 2025. (HYAB)
- Implement the Building Management (Amendment) Ordinance 2024 in July 2025 to encourage owners to participate in the making of major procurement decisions of their buildings and improve the transparency and accountability of owners’ corporations. (HYAB)
- Commence the next phase of the review of building management with stakeholders to continue the promotion of good building management. (HYAB)
- Continue to implement the licensing regime under the Property Management Services Ordinance. As at end-September 2024, over 790 property management companies and 14 600 property management practitioners have been licensed. (HYAB)

- Put forward an array of elderly-friendly building design proposals and implement the design requirements through legislative amendments, guidelines and practice notes in phases from 2025 onwards after public consultation, as well as to formulate the Elderly-friendly Building Accreditation Scheme for encouraging proactive adoption of more elderly-friendly designs in private developments. (DFSO, DEVB)

Enhancing enforcement efficiency

- Propose amendments to the Buildings Ordinance by end-2024 and conduct public consultation to enhance the deterrent effect against non-compliance with notices/orders and unauthorised building works, increase the types of exempted and minor works under the Buildings Ordinance, and strengthen the registration and disciplinary systems of contractors. The target is to introduce an amendment bill into the LegCo in 2026. (DEVB)

Fire safety support for buildings

- The Fire Services Department (FSD) will establish a “One-stop Coordination Office for New Fire Protection Facilities Acceptance” in the first quarter of 2025 to provide one-stop co-ordination services in respect of the acceptance inspection of fire protection facilities of new residential buildings and projects that facilitate business operations and benefit the people. (SB)
- The FSD will set up a “Building Improvement Special Duty Team” to proactively carry out inspections and strengthen law enforcement actions against fire hazards in old composite and domestic buildings, and enhance fire safety education. (SB)
- The FSD will establish two new “Building Improvement Support Centres” in districts with more old buildings to enhance support for owners and occupiers of old buildings on fire safety improvement works. (SB)

Creating Developable Land

Enhancing the speed and efficiency of land production

- Continue to update annually the forecast of 10-year supply of developable land (i.e. spade-ready sites) so as to enhance transparency and facilitate monitoring of work progress. (DEVB)
- Implement the investigation and design of Underground Quarrying at Tsing Yi North and Sham Shui Kok, North Lantau to enhance long-term land supply more efficiently as well as to provide a local source of rock material supply. (DEVB)

Streamlining procedures

- Continue to take forward the streamlining of administrative procedures for vetting and approval, including regular monitoring of the progress of specific measures formulated by departments in adopting a “facilitator” mindset to handle the vetting and approval work, and maintain communication with the industry on the implementation of these measures. (DEVB)
- Outsource drone inspection of the external walls of buildings and unauthorised building works and related analyses to private companies, and to engage professionals to handle the vetting of small-scale or temporary structures through self-certification, so as to make good use of industry resources to enhance speed and efficiency. (DEVB)
- Complete the strategic study by end-2024 with a view to identifying the major reasons for high construction costs, and roll out a series of strategic measures targeting such aspects as project delivery, mode of procurement, utilisation of innovative technologies, streamlining approval processes, and review of standards to reduce construction costs. (DEVB)

- Expand the remit of the Development Projects Facilitation Office under the Development Bureau to co-ordinate departmental efforts to expedite the vetting and approval of the land use for development projects related to innovation and technology (I&T) and other industries in the Northern Metropolis, in addition to large-scale private residential and commercial projects. (DEVB)
- Introduce a bill to amend the Protection of the Harbour Ordinance by end-2024, with a view to facilitating harbour enhancement works to enhance public enjoyment and connectivity of the harbourfront and strengthen the harbour functions. (DEVB)

Promoting research, development and application of building technology

- Through the new Building Technology Research Institute (BTRi) established in 2024, enhance the construction standards of Hong Kong by making reference to standards in the Mainland and overseas to promote local application of high quality and cost-effective construction materials from the Mainland and overseas, and collaborate closely with relevant authorities in Guangdong Province to take forward the strategic study of formulating the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) building standards in early 2025, so as to devise a concrete work framework for the relevant building standards. (DEVB)
- The BTRi will also conduct applied research and development (R&D) in innovative materials, construction methods and technologies; and devise standards, conduct testing and provide accreditation to spearhead innovation in the construction industry and attract R&D talent to Hong Kong. (DEVB)

- Continue to enhance the role of the Centre of Excellence for Major Project Leaders to bring together project management talents, including inviting major project leaders from the Mainland to participate in training and experience-sharing, with the aim of developing Hong Kong into an international expert knowledge hub on project delivery. (DEVB)
- Roll out progressively measures to strengthen the supply chain of the Modular Integrated Construction (MiC) modules, covering issues such as the approval processes, manufacturing, taxation, transportation, storage and accreditation of modules, foster complementarities with the Mainland and drive the high-quality development of MiC so as to turn it into one of the industries in the GBA that enjoy clear advantages, and subsequently expand it to overseas markets. (DEVB)
- Continue to take forward the Common Spatial Data Infrastructure initiative, with a view to building up a spatial data ecosystem, collaborating with stakeholders in the I&T field to expand the services of the Geospatial Lab, supporting smart city development, and promoting digital economy. (DEVB)
- Utilise the developed Integrated Capital Works Platform to consolidate the data of all public works projects to achieve further application of artificial intelligence (AI) technology for big data analysis for reviewing the performance of projects in terms of cost and progress. This could facilitate the timely implementation of corresponding measures to enhance management efficiency and project performance, and continue to lead and promote digitalisation of the construction industry. (DEVB)
- The HKHA will continue to adopt the MiC approach in suitable public housing projects, so as to meet the target of adopting the MiC approach in no less than half of the projects scheduled for completion from 2028-29 to 2032-33, and adopt the Design for Manufacture and Assembly approach for the remaining projects. (HB)
- The HKHA will continue to develop with research institutions the second generation MiC (MiC 2.0) for application in new projects adopting the MiC approach to further expedite the construction process and increase efficiency. (HB)
- Stipulate in all tender documents of the superstructure works contracts for new public housing projects that contractors are required to use construction robots as appropriate, so as to enhance construction efficiency, lower the health risks faced by workers and reduce wastage. (HB)
- The HKHA will continue to identify more “Design and Build” projects to meet the target of adopting the “Design and Build” procurement model in the production of no less than half of the public housing flats scheduled for completion from 2028-29 to 2032-33. (HB)

Addressing the manpower demand of the construction industry

- Continue to adopt a multi-pronged strategy to enhance the training of local construction personnel, including the provision of no less than about 12 000 training places by the Construction Industry Council in each of the academic years from 2024/25 to 2027/28, and continue to promote “multi-skilled” development of workers, and at the same time continue to collaborate with relevant institutions in stepping up the training of local technicians and professionals. (DEVB)

- Continue to monitor and utilise the Labour Importation Scheme for the Construction Sector and talent admission schemes as supplementary measures to alleviate manpower shortage on the premise of safeguarding the employment priority for local workers. (DEVB)
- The STEAM education platform, which has been rolled out under the construction industry joint promotion campaign implemented by various departments in collaboration with organisations in the industry, will introduce more construction-related STEAM education content and activities in 2024-25 to promote the construction industry and attract new entrants to the industry. (DEVB)
- Utilise the \$2.2 billion funding from the Construction Innovation and Technology Fund (CITF) to continuously drive wider adoption of innovative technologies by the industry and more small and medium enterprises to enhance productivity. The CITF has granted about \$1.35 billion for subsidising more than 1 200 enterprises to adopt various technologies in local construction projects to date. (DEVB)
- Formulate in the first half of 2025 policy proposals relating to the use of newly developed land to drive large-scale urban redevelopment projects by the public and private sectors, directions of which may include transfer of plot ratios across districts and construction of dedicated rehousing estates. (DEVB)
- Extend the various measures to revitalise industrial buildings (IBs) to end-2027, which include relaxing the permissible plot ratio by no more than 20% for IB redevelopment projects, exempting the waiver fees chargeable for wholesale conversion of IBs (with enhancements to the original requirement), and continue relaxing the waiver application policy to permit designated industry use. (DEVB)

Energising Kowloon East

Kau Yi Chau Artificial Islands

- Commence progressively the detailed design related to the reclamation works of the Kau Yi Chau Artificial Islands project from end-2024 onwards so as to take forward the project in a steady and prudent manner. (DEVB)
- Complete the revitalisation of Tsui Ping River by end-2024 to provide the public with a riverine public space in the urban area created with waterscape, landscape and ecological features, which will not only enhance the connectivity of walkable Kowloon East, but also provide a new attraction for the community. (DEVB)
- Continue to transform Kowloon East into the second core business district through the implementation of development proposals such as the Kwun Tong Action Area and Kowloon Bay Action Area, as well as the revitalisation of old industrial areas. (DEVB)

Expediting urban redevelopment

- Provide one-stop support services for minority owners affected by compulsory sale and step up public education through the Support Service Centre for Minority Owners under Compulsory Sale which started operation in the third quarter of 2024. (DEVB)
- The URA will submit to the Government the renewal master plans of the planning studies for Tsuen Wan and Sham Shui Po in the second half of 2025 after refining the proposals and completing the technical assessments. (DEVB)
- Continue to carry out works for the Round-the-Island Trail (the Trail), with a view to connecting 90% of the Trail by end-2027 and substantially completing the remaining larger scale works by end-2031. (DEVB)
- Implement eight more measures to improve the pedestrian environment and traffic conditions in Wong Chuk Hang, Aberdeen Waterfront and Ap Lei Chau North by end-2025. (DEVB)

Invigorating Island South

- Continue to progressively enhance the open spaces on both sides of Aberdeen Typhoon Shelter by way of minor works. (DEVB)
- Commence works on the boardwalk along Staunton Creek Nullah and adjacent open spaces to enhance pedestrian connectivity and the local environment. (DEVB)
- Continue to study the feasibility of building a museum near Ocean Park to enrich cultural infrastructure and create synergies with the future development in the Southern District. (CSTB, DEVB)

Unlocking Tso/Tong lands in the New Territories

- Work with the Development Bureau and the relevant departments to continue supporting the Heung Yee Kuk New Territories to enhance the management of Tso/Tong in the New Territories according to the relevant recommendations of the review, with the aim of unlocking the development potentials of Tso/Tong lands more effectively. (HYAB)

Transport Infrastructures

Railway projects

- Commence the next stage of preparatory work for the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Rail Link (Hung Shui Kiu-Qianhai) in collaboration with Shenzhen. The MTR Corporation Limited will get started with the detailed planning and design of the Northern Link Spur Line in early 2025. (TLB)
- Continue with the works of the Tung Chung Line Extension, Oyster Bay Station, Tuen Mun South Extension and Northern Link Phase 1 (Kwu Tung Station) with a view to completing the above railway projects progressively from 2027 onwards; and to complete the Hung Shui Kiu Station and Northern Link Main Line in 2030 and 2034 respectively. (TLB)

Road projects

- Continue to take forward various road projects, including those under construction like Route 6 and Trunk Road T4 in Sha Tin, as well as the other projects in the Hong Kong Major Transport Infrastructure Development Blueprint. (TLB)

Smart and green mass transit

- Press ahead with the development of the three smart and green mass transit system projects with a view to striving for early completion; finalise technical details and implementation approach for the East Kowloon and Kai Tak projects within 2025, and invite expression of interests for the Hung Shui Kiu/Ha Tsuen project by end-2024. (TLB)

Convenient and safe mobility

- Take forward the pilot schemes related to smart mobility progressively based on the initial recommendations under the Traffic and Transport Strategy Study, and promulgate the Transport Strategy Blueprint in 2025 for maintaining a reliable, safe, smart, environmentally friendly and highly efficient overall transport system for Hong Kong. (TLB)
- Continue to implement the regulatory regime for autonomous vehicles (AV) that has come into operation since March 2024 to allow more flexibility for trials and uses of AV technology, such as providing services of carrying passengers by AVs under more complex road scenarios (e.g. the park area of the West Kowloon Cultural District, the Hong Kong Science Park and major private residential estates), paving the way for the wider use of AVs in the long run. (TLB)
- Enhance road safety measures, including amending legislation to further regulate the use of mobile communication devices while driving, the use of child restraining devices in private cars, and the wearing of helmets by cyclists. (TLB)

Enhancing personalised point-to-point transport services

- Continue to implement a series of measures to enhance the quality of taxi service, and discuss with the trade the proposal of installing camera systems in all taxi compartments with a view to consulting the LegCo by end-2024. (TLB)
- Formulate legislative proposals on the regulation of online hailed car platforms, the types and number of vehicle for the compliant services, as well as the relevant licensing requirements for the platform, vehicles, and drivers, etc., within 2025. (TLB)

Cross-boundary traffic

- Continue to work with the Mainland authorities to timely review and further enhance the implementation arrangements of Northbound Travel for Hong Kong Vehicles. (TLB)
- Commence the first phase of Southbound Travel for Guangdong Vehicles, and allow Guangdong vehicles to travel through the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge to the automated car parks on the Hong Kong Port Island. (TLB)

Deepening Reform of the Healthcare System

- Review comprehensively the positioning and the objectives of the healthcare system, and reform the functions and division of labour between the Department of Health (DH), the Hospital Authority (HA) and the Primary Healthcare Commission (PHCC), with a view to enhancing the service effectiveness of the public healthcare system in Hong Kong. (HHB)

- Consider the recommendations set out in the review report of the HA's Review Committee on the Management of the Public Hospital System with a view to improving its performance in the areas of governance, appraisal, accountability and distribution of responsibilities, operations, risk management and procedural compliance. (HHB)

Promoting the development of primary healthcare

- Introduce a bill to the LegCo within 2026 to strengthen the governance structure of primary healthcare, and empower the PHCC to set up a quality assurance and monitoring mechanism. (HHB)
- Formulate a life-course approach health promotion strategy having regard to Hong Kong's demographic structure and the health needs of different social groups to improve public health, and draw up health management plans according to different age groups and health statuses. (HHB)
- The DH will re-orientate the family planning service provided by its Maternal and Child Health Centres (MCHCs) to enhance pre-pregnancy health service, as well as review and adjust the scope of the subsidised family planning service currently provided by non-governmental organisations (NGOs), so as to dovetail with the Government's policy of encouraging and promoting healthy fertility. (HHB)
- The MCHCs will strengthen support for healthy parenting, including enhancing the provision of parenting education service, childcare information and individual counselling, so as to boost parents' confidence and skills in parenting, thereby minimising the likelihood of future child behavioral issues. (HHB)

- Re-organise the school-based health promotion work under the DH's Student Health Service through extending the Whole School Health Programme to cover all primary and secondary schools in Hong Kong. Health reports will be compiled for each participating school to recommend school-based measures to improve physical activities and diet arrangements etc., with a view to further promoting student's physical and mental health in schools. (HHB)
- Continue to take forward the work of tobacco control and implement the next-phase tobacco control initiatives with a view to further reducing smoking prevalence and minimising the social hazards posed by tobacco products, thereby safeguarding public health. (HHB)
- Encourage and support the elderly in the community, in particular elderly singletons, via district networks to receive necessary vaccination, so as to reduce the risk of complications and death due to infection. (HHB)
- Continue to develop the District Health Centres (DHCs), gradually upgrade the interim DHC Expresses into DHCs, expand the multi-disciplinary primary healthcare service network, with priority given to integrating the services of the DH's Woman Health Centres and Elderly Health Centres into DHCs, and integrate relevant services into those of other private healthcare service providers through strategic purchasing. (HHB)
- Develop a community drug formulary and launch a community pharmacy programme with the support of centralised purchasing and community networks, facilitating more convenient access to affordable primary healthcare drugs for citizens. (HHB)
- Enhance the role of general out-patient clinics (GOPCs) as primary healthcare service providers for the underprivileged, and introduce chronic disease screening services and strengthen nurse clinic services. (HHB)
- Expand the service scope of the Chronic Disease Co-Care Pilot Scheme (CDCC Pilot Scheme) to cover blood lipid tests in order to enable more comprehensive assessment and proper management of the risk factors (including high blood pressure, high blood glucose and high blood lipids) of cardiovascular diseases, and examine the feasibility of integrating the GOPC Public-Private Partnership Programme under the HA into the CDCC Pilot Scheme. (HHB)
- Enhance end-of-life care services for terminally ill patients, including supporting measures for dying in place and enhancing life and death education, to improve their quality of life to the last moments and enhance the well-being of their families during the patients' final stage of life and beyond their departure. (HHB)
- Proceed with the legislation of the Advance Decision on Life-sustaining Treatment Bill and finalise the relevant implementation details. (HHB)
- Commence phase two of the Breast Cancer Screening Pilot Programme to provide screening for high-risk women. (HHB)
- Explore the strategies for lung cancer screening applicable to Hong Kong through reviewing local data, including the possibility of using AI to assist screening, having regard to the latest recommendation of the Cancer Expert Working Group on Cancer Prevention and Screening. (HHB)

- Roll out a new programme to subsidise hepatitis B screening to prevent liver cancer, under which DHCs and family doctors provide risk-based hepatitis B screening and management through strategic purchasing. (HHB)

Enhancing public and private healthcare services

- Examine the structure and levels of HA's fees and charges with a view to encouraging prudent use of services, directing resources to those with the most need and for those with serious or critical conditions, increasing the support to patients with financial difficulties, and strengthening the financial sustainability of the targeted subsidisation of the public healthcare services. (HHB)
- The HA will strengthen the centralised procurement of drugs and medical devices used in various clusters of the public healthcare system by end-2024, so as to enhance the bargaining power of purchasing drugs and medical devices, and reduce by about half the time for introducing new drugs with proven efficacy and cost-effectiveness to the Drug Formulary. (HHB)
- The HA will formulate a directory for inherited and rare diseases by using genomic data of the Hong Kong Genome Institute, thereby facilitating early diagnosis and treatment by clinical teams, while supporting relevant research and clinical trials to promote precision medicine. (HHB)
- Consolidate the highly specialised paediatric services in all clusters and implement the "hub-and-spoke model" to enable the Hong Kong Children's Hospital (HKCH) to fulfil its function as the Centre of Excellence in Paediatrics, thereby enhancing the quality of paediatric care in Hong Kong and providing a platform conducive to research development and professional training. (HHB)
- The HA will explore expanding its pediatrics services, including increasing the scope of newborn screening; collaborating with foetal medicine teams to perform magnetic resonance imaging diagnoses of the brain and the central nervous system of fetuses and newborns; initiating and developing complex neurosurgical procedures, establishing evidence-based therapeutic centres and clinical research centres, as well as maintaining case directories for diseases such as neuromuscular disorders, and establishing an advanced gene therapy centre. (HHB)
- Finalise the projects and the timetable of the second Hospital Development Plan to dovetail with the development of the Northern Metropolis and address local healthcare needs of various districts while increasing service capacity, enhancing service quality and upgrading hospital facilities in a timely manner. (HHB)
- Set up the first acute stroke centre in accordance with the national accreditation standards at a public hospital of Hong Kong with a view to enhancing acute stroke services. (HHB)
- Prepare for the establishment of the second chest pain centre in Prince of Wales Hospital within 2025 based on the experience of setting up Hong Kong's first chest pain centre in Queen Mary Hospital. (HHB)
- Enhance the triage system and referral arrangements of specialist out-patient services, including setting up multi-specialty integrated clinics, to avoid the need for multiple referrals so that patients with acute needs could receive appropriate specialist services in a timely manner and patients with mild and stable conditions may receive integrated care. (HHB)

- Increase the capacity of cataract surgery by at least 20% to shorten patients' waiting time. (HHB)
- Organise a professional platform to formulate evidence-based clinical guidelines and explore devising quality and cost-benefit indicators for public and private healthcare services, thereby fostering professional exchanges among healthcare staff to make best use of resources in providing effective patient care. (HHB)
- Develop quality indicators for public and private healthcare systems and explore legislation for price transparency of private healthcare to enhance service efficiency and address medical inflation, with plan to consult the sectors in 2025. (HHB)
- Introduce an amendment bill for the Electronic Health Record Sharing System Ordinance into the LegCo to empower the Secretary for Health to require healthcare providers to deposit prescribed essential health data in citizens' personal eHealth accounts, which will enable citizens to have a more complete electronic health records, thereby enhancing the continuity of care. (HHB)

Bridging together healthcare professionals

- Continue to increase the number of medical training places in Hong Kong by increasing student intake of the two existing medical schools from 590 currently to 650 with effect from the 2025/26 academic year. (HHB)
- Support the proposition for establishment of the third medical school by local universities, set up a task group to invite universities interested in establishing the new medical school to submit proposals, and reserve land in Ngau Tam Mei to develop the campus of the new medical school and a new integrated medical teaching and research hospital. (HHB)

- Utilise the newly amended legislative framework to actively admit non-locally trained doctors, nurses and dentists to enhance manpower. (HHB)
- The HA will continue to implement various initiatives to attract, train and retain talents, and will actively pursue programmes for recruitment of and exchanges among healthcare professionals including non-locally trained doctors, nurses and allied health professionals. (HHB)
- Introduce an amendment bill to the Supplementary Medical Professions Ordinance in early 2025 to admit qualified non-locally trained allied health professionals. (HHB)

Promoting the development of Chinese medicine

- Collaborate with the Chinese medicine (CM) sector for drawing up a Chinese Medicine Development Blueprint to outline the vision, direction and strategy for Hong Kong's long-term CM development with a view to promoting its all-round and high-quality development. (HHB)
- Explore the application of big data to promote international research collaboration on herb-drug interaction with a view to discovering more evidence of clinical significance to promote the internationalisation of CM. (HHB)
- Strengthen the integrated Chinese-Western medicine services to cover more disease areas where CM has an advantage, including gradually extending the cancer care programme to all hospital clusters and expanding services to the treatment of respiratory diseases and knee osteoarthritis, etc.. (HHB)
- Complete and commence phased operation of the Chinese Medicine Hospital and the permanent premises of the Government Chinese Medicines Testing Institute in 2025. (HHB)

- Organise the first edition of Hong Kong Chinese Medicine Culture Festival by end-2024. (HHB)
- Subsidise through the Chinese Medicine Development Fund starting from the second quarter of 2025 as an incentive for organising more large-scale international and regional CM conferences, exhibitions and events in Hong Kong. (HHB)

Oral health

- Submit the report of the Working Group on Oral Health and Dental Care summarising the findings of its comprehensive review of the dental care services provided by the Government, including the delivery models and service scope. (HHB)
- Launch the Primary Dental Co-Care Pilot Scheme for Adolescents to encourage the prevention of dental diseases, as well as the Community Dental Support Programme for enhancing the dental services for the under-privileged, including elderly persons with financial difficulties supplanting the Community Care Fund Elderly Dental Assistance Programme. (HHB)
- Provide oral check-ups and preventive dental services for pre-school children to tackle their tooth decay problems. (HHB)

Promoting mental health

- Set an annual promotional theme for the Mental Health Workplace Charter, and give recognition to qualifying participating organisations for achieving specific targets. (HHB)
- Develop a multi-disciplinary tiered framework, from dealing with general emotional problems at the frontline to handling cases requiring follow-up and more serious mental illnesses cases, which delineates the roles of and division of work among different professionals (such as teaching staff members, social workers, and healthcare workers, etc.) in the provision of mental health services for cases at each tier, with a view to enabling different professionals to work together and perform their respective roles smoothly. (HHB, EDB, LWB)

- Regularise the Pilot Project on Transitional Support Service for Persons in Mental Recovery in the first quarter of 2026 to continuously provide support services for persons in mental recovery who are preparing for discharge from hospitals and waitlisting for halfway houses. (LWB)
- Enhance the services of the Cyber Youth Support Teams in the second quarter of 2025 to provide an online support platform for the emotional wellness of the young people. (LWB)
- Set up an additional Integrated Community Centre for Mental Wellness in Tung Chung in the first quarter of 2026. (LWB)
- Implement the 4Rs Mental Health Charter in the 2024/25 school year to foster the mental health of students, staff and parents in a more holistic manner. Additional related services, activities and programmes are provided to schools through inter-departmental and cross-sectoral collaboration. (EDB)
- Extend and enhance the Three-Tier School-based Emergency Mechanism to end-December 2025, and strengthen the collaboration among the school's multi-disciplinary team, off-campus supporting network and medical services for early identification and support of students with high risks. (EDB, LWB, HHB)
- Launch the "Mental Health Literacy" resource packages for senior secondary and lower primary levels in the 2024/25 school year, with a view to proactively enhancing students' awareness of mental health and assisting schools in promoting it. (EDB)
- Organise about 20 additional thematic teacher training sessions in the 2024/25 school year to strengthen teachers' capacity in early identification and support for students with mental health needs. (EDB)

- Organise more thematic parent education programmes to assist them to acquire the knowledge and skills in supporting the healthy growth of their children and taking care of their mental health, and promote positive parental education and raise parents' awareness in children's mental health through diversified modes such as district-based film gala presentations. (EDB)

Building a Caring and Inclusive Society

Targeted poverty alleviation

- Launch the Third Cohort of the Strive and Rise Programme by end-2024. (CSO, LWB)
- Launch three more projects of the Pilot Programme on Community Living Room within 2025 through tripartite collaboration of the Government, the business sector and the community, with a view to benefitting about 1 300 target households. (CSO, LWB)
- Continue to implement the School-based After School Care Service Scheme in the 2024/25 school year and double the number of primary schools covered by the Scheme from the current 50 to more than 110, so as to allow primary school students in need to stay in school after class to receive care and learning support. (CSO, LWB, EDB)
- Launch a three-year pilot scheme within 2025 to subsidise elderly Comprehensive Social Security Assistance recipients who opt to retire in Guangdong to reside in designated residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) in Guangdong to improve their living environment and quality of life, with 1 000 quotas. (LWB)

Care for the elderly

- Increase the number of the Residential Care Service Voucher for the Elderly by 20% to a total of 6 000 starting from the second quarter of 2025. (LWB)

- Enhance the Residential Care Services Scheme in Guangdong by increasing the number of participating RCHEs, sharing part of the local medical expenses of the elderly participants on a two-year pilot basis, and providing them with caring services. (LWB)
- The HKMA and the Social Welfare Department will explore with the banking sector feasible ways to enable Hong Kong elderly persons retiring in the Guangdong and Fujian Provinces to receive portable cash assistance from the Government more conveniently. (LWB)
- Complete a holistic review on the skill and qualification requirements of staff providing health and rehabilitation services in residential care homes by end-2024, including exploring the creation of a promotion rank for serving health workers and the relaxation of the academic qualification requirements of the certificate in progression training for Care Workers. (LWB)

Support for carers

- Extend the coverage of the District Services and Community Care Teams (Care Teams)-Pilot Scheme on Supporting Elderly and Carers from two districts now to all districts. The objectives are to identify households of singleton or doubleton elderly and carers of elderly persons or persons with disabilities in need and refer their cases to the relevant social welfare units for follow-up. The Government will also assist households referred by the Care Teams to install and use emergency alarm systems as necessary. (LWB)
- Explore the setting up of a multi-disciplinary, cross-institutional database on carers of elderly persons or persons with disabilities which, coupled with a university-designed identification tool, will enable early identification of high-risk cases for provision of support. (LWB)

Strengthening support for persons with disabilities

- Set up 14 Integrated Community Rehabilitation Centres (ICRCs) across the territory in phases, including regularising the operation of two ICRCs participating in the pilot project from the third quarter of 2025 onwards, as well as enhancing the functions of existing Community Rehabilitation Day Centres and converting them into ICRCs progressively. This would provide persons with disabilities requiring medium- to high-level care with flexible and integrated community support services through a case management approach. (LWB)
- Provide 1 280 additional day community rehabilitation and home care service places for persons with severe disabilities and 90 additional peer supporter posts, so as to enhance the support services for persons with disabilities and their carers. (LWB)
- Set up an additional district support centre for persons with disabilities in New Territories East in the third quarter of 2026. (LWB)
- Increase the number of rehabilitation (including day, residential and respite care) service places from about 37 300 in 2023-24 to about 39 900 by 2028-29. (LWB)
- Provide about 1 040 additional day care, residential care and pre-school rehabilitation service places in 2025-26. (LWB)
- Increase the number of representatives of persons with disabilities and their carers in the new term of the Rehabilitation Advisory Committee in 2025 to better gauge their needs. (LWB)
- Replace the current Personal Care Worker Grant with the Personal Care Enhancement Grant for Boarders starting from the 2025/26 school year, with a view to enhancing the personal care services provided for boarders of relevant special schools. (EDB)
- Introduce the “Caring Employer” medal to commend employers who actively engage persons with disabilities. (LWB)

- Encourage the establishment of more social enterprises which engage persons with disabilities. (LWB)
- Regularise the Pilot Project on Enhancing Vocational Rehabilitation Services with effect from the third quarter of 2025 to enhance the service and training model of sheltered workshops and integrated vocational rehabilitation services centres, to build a better vocational rehabilitation and training ladder for persons with disabilities. (LWB)

Promoting women development

- Build networks with female leaders in professional and business sectors for regular communication and exchange with them. (HYAB)
- Launch the She Inspires Mentorship Programme, which will match female university students in Hong Kong who aspire to pursue a career in the professional or business sectors with senior management mentors, and provide related training and activities. (HYAB)
- Continue to organise the Family and Women Development Summit to listen to the stakeholders’ views on women’s development and the promotion of family education. (HYAB)
- Keep the one-stop family and women information portal under review and enrich its content. (HYAB)
- Continue to encourage women’s groups and NGOs to make good use of the Women Empowerment Fund to facilitate women’s development of their own potential and self-enhancement. (HYAB)
- Continue to implement, through the Community Care Fund, the Maintenance Mediation Pilot Scheme to subsidise an NGO in providing mediation services on maintenance to resolve related disputes. (HYAB)

Supporting family and childcare

- Set up an additional aided standalone child care centre and increase the service places of the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project by 25% to 2 500, thereby increasing the estimated number of benefitting children to 25 000. (LWB)
- Co-operate with the Family Council to organise the Hong Kong Excellent Family Awards in 2025 to promote good family values to the general public. (HYAB)
- Continue to implement the Funding Scheme on the Promotion of Family Education to subsidise non-profit-making community projects in promoting family education and to enhance work in relation to family building, family education and family values. (HYAB)
- Provide childcare leave from April 2025 for government employees with children aged under three. (CSB)
- Enhance special work arrangements on festivals or their eves starting from January 2025 to create a family-friendly working environment for government employees. (CSB)
- The HA, as the largest employer of healthcare professionals in Hong Kong, will introduce a number of family-friendly measures, which include introducing child care leave, extending the fractional work arrangement from the doctors staff group to other staff groups, facilitating the organisation of parent support groups, and organising more family-oriented recreational activities to facilitate the promotion of harmonious family relationships. (HHB)

Child protection

- Strengthen the professional support for child abuse victims and their families, and make preparations for the implementation of the Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Ordinance. (LWB)

- Continue to progressively follow up on the recommendations of the Review of Residential Child Care and Related Services, including increasing the number of service places and strengthening the support and training for foster families. (LWB)
- Continue to implement the Social Work Service for Pre-primary Institutions regularised since the 2022/23 school year, providing service for more than 700 participating pre-primary institutions and covering around 130 000 pre-primary children and their families. (LWB)
- Set up four Community Parents and Children Centres on a pilot basis to promote parent-child interaction through play-based services, pass on positive parenting skills to families in need, and refer the families in need to various government and community services. (LWB)

Supporting ethnic minorities

- Continue to support the Steering Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs, chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, to strengthen cross-bureau/inter-departmental collaboration, as well as to co-ordinate and provide steer on support measures for ethnic minorities (EMs). (CMAB)
- Continue to co-ordinate the representations, in EM languages, of policies on and services for EMs by bureaux and departments on their webpages. (CMAB)
- Commence the services of the support service centres for EMs in Kowloon Central and New Territories East by end-2024, with their EM Care Teams to be launched in tandem. (HYAB)
- Commission an additional support service centre for EMs starting from 2025, which, together with the existing Centre for Harmony and Enhancement of Ethnic Minority Residents, will provide interpretation and translation services for EMs to alleviate the inconvenience they face due to language barrier. (HYAB)

- Strengthen Chinese learning support and parents assistance for non-Chinese speaking students (including EM students), which include organising after-school Chinese language courses, enhancing the Online Chinese Language Self-learning Resources, organising cross-school teacher learning communities, etc., and to organise parent education activities for parents of non-Chinese speaking students and launch the Parent Education Resource Booklet for Parents of Non-Chinese Speaking Students to facilitate them to support their children's whole-person development. (EDB)

Eliminating discrimination

- Support the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) in conveying positive messages of mutual respect, diversity and inclusion through enhanced promotional and public education efforts, and continue to study with the EOC ways to strengthen legal protection against sexual harassment. (CMAB)

Care Teams

- Regularise the establishment of the Care Teams and increase the resources available for each Care Team to about \$1.5 million per team for two years in the next funding agreement. (HYAB)
- Launch the Care Team Outstanding Service Award Scheme to recognise those Care Teams, Care Team members, volunteers and partnering organisations that have provided outstanding services. (HYAB)

Promoting hometown culture

- Continue to implement the Clansmen Culture Promotion Scheme, focusing on uniting clansmen in Hong Kong (including “drifters in Hong Kong”) in 2025. It will provide funding support for clansmen associations to organise various activities, thereby facilitating patriotic education and promoting the spirit of loving the Country, Hong Kong and the hometown. (HYAB)

Labour Support

Reforming the Employees Retraining Board Strengthening the training of local workers

- Starting from the first quarter of 2025, the Employees Retraining Board (ERB) will introduce a series of measures to enhance its services, including removing the restriction on educational attainment of service targets and increasing the total number of annual places by at least 15 000; strengthening collaboration with higher education institutions, large organisations and leading enterprises to provide more skills upgrading courses and courses that cater to Hong Kong's innovative development; increasing the capacity of its career planning and job-matching services; and establishing a brand new integrated training service and learning centre to promote continuous training for all. (LWB)
- The ERB will formulate an action plan within 2025 for reforming its functions, structure and operation mode as well as consolidating its training resources. (LWB)
- The ERB will consult industry sectors to launch more intensive courses with compressed lesson hours and contents, and offer more placement-tied courses, so as to facilitate the prompt increase in labour supply (such as non-ethnic Chinese) for trades with manpower shortage. (LWB)
- The ERB will continue to pilot the One-stop Training and Employment Scheme for trades facing severe manpower shortage, and will review its effectiveness in early 2026. (LWB)
- Offer two vacant school premises with no designated use for major trade unions with experience in vocational training to apply for establishing their training bases, and provide them with appropriate assistance in running courses of different trades and nurturing talents with novel skills, so as to further support vocational training for local employees. (LWB, DEVB)

Enhancing the Mandatory Provident Fund system

- Complete within 2025 legislative amendments for introducing Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) Full Portability, thereby enabling its launch soon after full implementation of the eMPF Platform. (FSTB)
- Continue with the sequential and orderly onboarding of MPF trustees to the eMPF Platform launched in June 2024 to ensure its full implementation in 2025 as scheduled, with a view to enhancing the operational efficiency of the MPF system and creating room for fee reduction. (FSTB)

Protecting labour and raising labour force

- Implement a 25-year subsidy scheme to tie in with the abolition of offsetting arrangement under the MPF System on 1 May 2025, and continue to publicise the relevant requirements widely. (LWB)
- Review the coverage of ex-gratia payment of severance payment under the Protection of Wages on Insolvency Fund to enhance the protection for employees subsequent to the abolition of MPF offsetting arrangement. (LWB)
- Implement the new Statutory Minimum Wage review mechanism. (LWB)
- Introduce an amendment bill into the LegCo in the first half of 2025 to relax the “continuous contract” requirement under the Employment Ordinance to 68 aggregate working hours for four weeks, which would allow employees to enjoy comprehensive employment rights easier. (LWB)
- Launch a Good Employee Recognition Campaign to tie in with the Good Employer Charter 2024 to promote harmonious labour relations. (LWB)

Promoting occupational safety and health

- Implement the revised Code of Practice for Safety and Health at Work in Confined Spaces to impose stricter requirements on contractors to supervise work in confined spaces. (LWB)
- Explore the option of encouraging the industry to use more technological equipment for enhancing construction safety, such as requiring contractors to use AI and Internet of Things sensors for monitoring work in confined spaces. (LWB, DEVB)
- The Drainage Services Department will lay down the requirements on application of technology to enhance supervision of confined spaces work in new contracts. (DEVB, LWB)
- The Labour Department will reform the safety training courses for work in confined spaces, as well as consider lengthening the duration of such courses and shortening the validity period of the related safety certificates, so that practitioners can refresh their safety knowledge and keep abreast of the latest developments in the law more frequently. (LWB)

Green and Low-carbon Lifestyle

Promoting waste reduction and recycling

- Continue to encourage private residential premises to participate in the Waste Reduction and Recycling Charter, and enhance public awareness and habits of recycling through measures such as optimising the service hours of the recycling facilities under GREEN@COMMUNITY, doubling the number of residential food waste collection facilities in Hong Kong, as well as strengthening the publicity and education on waste reduction and recycling in the community and schools. (EEB)

- I·PARK 1, the first waste-to-energy facility for treating municipal solid waste, is expected to be commissioned within 2025. Continue to take forward the development of I·PARK 2, with a view to achieving the goal of “Zero Landfill”. (EEB)
- Introduce a bill into the LegCo to establish a common legislative framework of producer responsibility schemes on different products, thereby facilitating the progressive inclusion of such products as plastic beverage containers and beverage cartons in future. (EEB)
- With facilitation measures in place, increase the useable area and extend the lease term of short-term tenancy sites designated for recycling operation to provide the recycling trade with more room for upcycling. (EEB)

Striving towards carbon neutrality

- Extend the carbon audit practice applicable to government buildings to government infrastructure progressively to further enhance the Government’s carbon management. (EEB)
- Launch a new round of Cleaner Production Partnership Programme with a funding of \$100 million to encourage Hong Kong-owned factories in Hong Kong and Guangdong Province to adopt cleaner production technologies, thereby continually improving regional environmental quality and progressing to the target of attaining carbon neutrality. (EEB)

Continue promoting ecological conservation

- Continue to take forward the establishment of the Sam Po Shue Wetland Conservation Park for the conservation of important wetland ecosystems, provision of eco-education and recreation facilities, and promotion of the modernisation of aquaculture, with a view to achieving co-existence of conservation and development. (EEB)

- Update the Hong Kong Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan to formulate a comprehensive strategy up to 2035, thereby enhancing the conservation of local nature ecology and contributing to national and global biodiversity governance. (EEB)
- Strengthen the protection of marine mammals in Hong Kong waters, including Chinese White Dolphins, through enhancing public education, reviewing legislation and regulations, and working more closely with the Mainland, etc. (EEB)
- Continue to develop and enhance facilities of country parks to enrich visitors’ experience, including the construction of a viewing platform overlooking Po Pin Chau in Sai Kung East Country Park and the revitalisation of Lin Ma Hang Lead Mine in Robin’s Nest Country Park, which are scheduled for completion and opening by end-2024. (EEB)

Expanding the charging network of electric vehicles

- Inject \$300 million into a new subsidy scheme to provide financial assistance to private organisations for installation of fast charging facilities, thereby expediting the expansion of the charging network. (EEB)
- Invite the industry to express views in 2025 on setting up fast charging stations (FCSs) at existing individual petrol filling station sites and topside development for other purposes above the FCSs, under the “single site, multiple uses” model. (EEB)

Conservation of heritage buildings

- Continue to deepen collaboration and exchange between Hong Kong and the Mainland, in particular other cities within the GBA and Shanghai, on archaeology, conservation and revitalisation of historic buildings, as well as public education and talent training, including co-organising exhibitions and loaning exhibits, conducting joint studies, assigning staff for professional training and jointly organising forums. (DEVB)

Enhancing Food Safety

- In 2024-25, review food safety standards regarding metal content in food under the Food Adulteration (Metallic Contamination) Regulations with reference to international standards and practices, with a view to formulating legislative amendment proposals and launching public consultation. (EEB)
- The Centre for Food Safety will publish the first report of its second Hong Kong Total Diet Study by end-2024. The Study aims to estimate dietary exposures to food chemicals for various population groups and assess the associated health risks, so as to provide a scientific basis for assessing food safety risks. (EEB)