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# Facilitate Stable Living in a Caring and Inclusive Society

深水埗東社區客廳開幕典禮
Sham Shui Po East Community Living Room Opening Ceremony

# Background

Since taking office, the current-term Government has been striving to build a vibrant economy and promote development. The ultimate goal is to enhance the sense of happiness and well-being of our people. We have been deepening reforms, driving innovations, expediting the development of the Northern Metropolis, and stepping up promotion of industry development. These and other efforts boost the long-term competitiveness of our economy, creating strong impetus for growth and lay a solid foundation for improving the well-being of our people.

With the unremitting efforts of the current-term Government in the past three years or so, the problem of back-loaded public housing supply has completely turned around. The Composite Waiting Time for Subsidised Rental Housing has been reduced from 6.1 years to 5.1 years, moving closer to the target of 4.5 years in 2026-27. Rising to the challenge, we announced in last year's Policy Address the proposal to introduce a brand new regulatory regime on Basic Housing Units through legislation, with a view to eradicating substandard subdivided units. We will continue to make good use of existing public housing resources to further enrich the housing ladder, helping people across all walks of life to live and work happily. We will sustain our efforts to produce and retain control over the supply of land. Targeting the pain point of high construction costs in Hong Kong, we will actively roll out various measures to streamline administrative procedures and use technology to boost the efficiency of land production and reduce construction costs.

We are equally committed to creating a convenient and comfortable living environment for the people of Hong Kong, with a view to building a caring and inclusive society. The establishment of Care Teams was announced shortly after the current-term Government assumed office. And the Government's long-standing, non-interventionist approach was replaced by the multi-pronged policy approach to promoting fertility. That includes various tax concessions, giving priority in the allocation of public rental housing units and the purchase of subsidised sale flats, enhancing child care support, increasing the public service quota for assisted reproductive service and providing the Newborn Baby Bonus. These and other initiatives reflect the current-term Government's determination to seek reform and make progress in a people-oriented approach.

In view of its fiscal position, the Government has to strictly control expenditure growth in recent years. Nevertheless, our recurrent expenditure on social welfare and healthcare has continued to rise, from $97.1 billion and $98.3 billion in 2021-22 to $130.4 billion and $115.3 billion in the 2025-26 Estimates, respectively, a combined increase of 26%. The top two policy area groups in 2025-26, social welfare and healthcare account for over 40% of the Government's recurrent expenditure. Upholding the belief that promoting people's well-being is a continuous process that never ends, we will continue to enhance the public healthcare system and strengthen primary healthcare services; implement the concept of targeted poverty alleviation by focusing on helping those at the end of the queue, who are most in need; and adopt a multi-pronged strategy to create a family-friendly, pro-birth environment, ultimately building a society in which the elderly are cared for, the vulnerable are supported and the disadvantaged assisted.

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# Facilitate Stable Living in a Caring and Inclusive Society

## Increase Housing Supply and Enrich the Housing Ladder

### Increase public housing supply

- For the five years from 2026-27 to 2030-31, it is forecast that the overall public housing production (including traditional public rental housing (PRH), Light Public Housing (LPH), Green Form Subsidised Home Ownership Scheme (GSH) and Home Ownership Scheme (HOS) units) will reach 189 000 units, about 80% higher than that of the five-year period when the current-term Government took office (i.e. from 2022-23 to 2026-27). We are moving further closer to the target of reducing the Composite Waiting Time for Subsidised Rental Housing to 4.5 years in 2026-27. (HB)
- About 10 000 LPH units will be gradually completed for intake by the end of 2025. The remaining 20 000 units will be fully completed by the first half of 2027. (HB)
- Strive for the Legislative Council (LegCo)'s passage of the bill on the Basic Housing Unit (BHU) regulatory regime within 2025 which seeks to eradicate substandard subdivided units (SDUs); and implement the regime in March 2026 which includes conducting registration of pre-existing SDUs in residential buildings and allowing a grace period for such SDUs to undergo alteration works to become BHUs, as well as concurrently accepting applications for BHU recognition, with a view to urging the market to improve the living conditions of SDUs under rental. (HB)
- The Government has implemented the transitional housing projects to provide over 21 000 units, of which about 18 400 units have been made available for application by those in need, and the remaining of about 2 700 units will all be completed by the first half of 2026. (HB)

### Redevelop PRH estates

- The Hong Kong Housing Authority (HKHA) is undertaking and planning for 11 redevelopment plans, and will announce the redevelopment projects for Ma Tau Wai Estate and Sai Wan Estate by end-2025. The HKHA will also conduct a study on the redevelopment of Model Housing Estate, which is the oldest PRH, and will announce its preliminary findings in 2026-27. (HB)

### Enrich the housing ladder

- On the basis of the significant increase in the supply of HOS flats, increase the ratio of quotas between Green Form and White Form from 40:60 to 50:50, so as to assist more PRH tenants to become owners, while at the same time transfer the original PRH flats to waiting list applicants, benefiting both parties. (HB)
- Increase the ratio of larger units in HOS and GSH projects starting from the second five-year period (i.e. from 2031-32 to 2035-36) to respond to market demand. (HB)
- Relax the alienation restriction period of new subsidised sale flats (SSF) from 15 years to 10 years to encourage upward mobility. This measure will be applicable to the next HOS and GSH sale exercises onwards. (HB)

- Starting from the next White Form Secondary Market Scheme (WSM) exercise, the HKHA will further increase the quota by 1 000, bringing the total to 7 000, so as to boost the chance of White Form applicants to purchase SSF in the secondary market with premium unpaid. Among these 1 000 additional quotas, half will be allocated to young family and one-person applicants aged below 40. (HB)
- The HKHA will issue a moderately higher number of approval letters than the quota set under the WSM exercise to avoid quota wastage due to changes in personal preferences, thus enabling the quota for purchasing flats to be fully utilised to meet purchasers' expectation as far as possible. (HB)
- Launch the "Flat-for-Flat Scheme for Elderly Owners" of SSF under the HKHA to allow those who have reached the age of 60 and owned an SSF under the HKHA for 10 years or more to purchase a smaller SSF or an SSF in a more remote area after selling their original one in the secondary market with premium unpaid. In doing so, the elderly can get additional cash to meet their living expenses, while urban or larger flats can be released for applications by families in need. (HB)
- The HKHA and the Hong Kong Housing Society will introduce a pilot scheme, allowing those who have owned an SSF for 10 years or more to let their flats with premium unpaid to eligible White Form applicants after paying a rental licence fee, subject to a quota of 3 000. (HB)

## "Well Being · Start-Up 2.0" Programme

- The HKHA launches the "Well Being · Start-Up 2.0" Programme to provide a three-year staged rental at discounted market rents to help youth start-up teams gradually adapt to market rental levels. In addition, private shopping centres and the commercial sector are encouraged to offer shops for young people to start their businesses. Together with the additional shops supplied by the HKHA, the programme will offer more than 60 shops, providing development opportunities for more young people. (HB)

## Promote smart estate management

- To promote smart estate management, the HKHA will continue to trial various innovative technologies in pilot estates, such as exploring the use of robots, drones, IoT sensors, artificial intelligence (AI) analysis and mobile devices in more suitable scenarios; and further trial various smart access control systems in some of the pilot estates, for example, door sensing systems at building entrances/exits and entrance doors of elderly households, with a view to gradually extending the systems to other suitable estates. (HB)

## Private housing supply

- According to the Long Term Housing Strategy, the supply target for private housing in the coming decade is projected to be 126 000 units, and the Government will make available land to meet the above demand in the coming decade, and determine the pace for rolling out such land to the market in an orderly and pragmatic manner. (HB, DEVB)

# Land Development

## Build land reserve

- Sustain efforts in land creation. In the next decade, get ready around 2 600 hectares of developable land (i.e. "spade-ready site") to meet future economic and social development needs and provide the necessary room for the Government to build up a healthy land reserve. (DEVB)
- Continue to update annually the supply forecast of spade-ready sites so as to keep society informed of the land supply situation. (DEVB)
- Commence the operation of Underground Quarrying at Lam Tei in 2026, and continue with 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)

## Reduce construction costs

- Streamline the approval system, simplify works approval procedures, and set clear performance pledges in terms of time and strengthen the coordination of the approval process of relevant departments to speed up the approval process. (DEVB)
- The Housing Department (HD) will set up the Project Facilitation Office to co-ordinate various departments in expediting the completion of public housing projects. (HB)
- The Housing Bureau (HB) will continue to implement a new management approach, under which the target time for project completion is set to prompt the accelerated completion of various project stages. (HB)
- The Project Strategy and Governance Office under the Development Bureau (DEVB) will strengthen project governance by reviewing the requirements of user departments for site selection, usage mix, scale, design, implementation programme and so on at the conceptual stage before project inception, and assist relevant bureaux and departments in establishing and reinforcing the "ownership" mind-set, thereby further enhancing cost-effectiveness of public works projects. (DEVB)
- Reform the procurement of materials. The DEVB will adopt a central procurement strategy on a trial basis in the first half of 2026, piloting the procurement of commonly used materials including steel reinforcement and Modular Integrated Construction (MiC) modules, with a view to reducing construction costs of public works projects. (DEVB)
- Pilot batch procurement of integrated modules of MiC and make good use of the database of standard building materials created for contractors, which covers commonly used materials such as aluminium windows and partition walls, to shorten the approval process. (HB)
- Organise the Project Cost Management Forum to continuously strengthen and deepen the cost management culture in the construction industry and share the latest cost management measures, with a view to enhancing the industry's cost management performance and ensuring proper use of public funds. (DEVB)

## Leverage innovation and technology

- Press ahead with the digitalisation of project cost control processes. A Project Cost Management Platform will be launched in phases from 2026 to enable seamless inter-departmental collaboration among the DEVB, bureaux and departments in jointly handling relevant vetting and approval procedures on the digital platform. (DEVB)

- Establish a market price database and apply AI technologies to analyse, for instance, the cost data of previous government projects, and enhance the efficiency in policy-making through automation of regular vetting and approval, with a view to ensuring greater cost-effectiveness in future project designs. (DEVB)
- The HD has adopted the self-developed BIM-enabled Systematic Approach to Foundation Design, which automatically generates foundation designs, to achieve further savings in construction costs. (HB)
- Apply Project Information Management and Analytics Platform in the development and construction process of new public housing projects and specify in all new building (superstructure) tender documents the work processes that allow the application of construction robotics starting from 2025-26. (HB)
- Strengthen connections with innovation and technology (I&T) communities such as Cyberport and Hong Kong Science Park to establish co-operative partnerships, step up promotion of utilising the Common Spatial Data Infrastructure and 3D digital map, and foster the diversified development of spatial data labs. (DEVB)
- Through the $2.2 billion Construction Innovation and Technology Fund (CITF), continuously drive wider adoption of innovative technologies by the industry and more small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to enhance productivity. The CITF has granted about $2 billion for subsidising more than 1 400 enterprises to adopt various technologies in local construction projects to date. (DEVB)

## Construction standards and technologies

- The Building Technology Research Institute (BTRi) will conduct continuous review on long-standing construction standards and requirements that significantly impact the costs of government projects, such as concrete strength and load bearing capacity of foundations, in order to enhance cost-effectiveness. (DEVB)
- The BTRi implements a certification scheme to provide accreditation for construction products, and establish a central database to promote local application of high-quality and cost-effective construction products from the Mainland and overseas, with a view to cutting down on the approval procedures in future. (DEVB)
- The BTRi has commenced the formulation of relevant Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) standards for innovative materials and technologies (such as MiC and high-strength steels) to enable them to reach out to the international market through Hong Kong as a platform, so as to facilitate the synergised development of the construction industry in the GBA. (DEVB)
- Liaise closely with the Department of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of Guangdong Province to complete the first stage of strategic study for establishing the objectives, framework, proposal, priorities and timetable for GBA standards in 2025. (DEVB)
- Look into the gradual adoption of Guobiao and the alignment with other international standards in respect of the approval of building materials for public housing in order to enhance efficiency and reduce costs. (HB)
- Relax the gross floor area (GFA) exemption arrangement for car parks in private developments by removing the mandatory requirement of constructing underground car parks as a condition of exemption, and granting full GFA exemption to the construction of no more than two storeys of above ground car parks in developments. (DEVB)

- Continue to implement measures to strengthen the supply chain of MiC, covering issues such as the approval processes, manufacturing, taxation, transportation, storage and accreditation of modules, in order to foster the application of MiC technology in public and private sector projects. Efforts will be dedicated to research and development, quality accreditation and marketing of the technology, and deepening the co-operation with the GBA to consolidate Hong Kong's leading position in the area of MiC. (DEVB)
- Formulate and promulgate a series of measures to strengthen the supply chain of Multi-trade Integrated Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing (MiMEP) modules so as to enhance the efficiency and performance of mechanical and electrical installation in public works. (DEVB)
- Take forward the Advanced Construction Industry Building project to provide a dedicated facility for the construction industry, featuring a multi-storey design to house steel rebar prefabrication yards, processing sites for MiMEP, and other advanced manufacturing facilities, so as to promote wider adoption of high productivity construction methods in the industry and enhance new quality productive forces. (DEVB)
- Explore with the Qianhai Authority the selection of suitable pilot projects in 2026 to adopt Hong Kong's New Engineering Contract form and Smart Site Safety System in the future construction stage, with the aim of introducing the strengths of Hong Kong's construction industry to the GBA. (DEVB)

## Release industrial land in the urban areas

- Commence a study on existing industrial stock within 2025, and put forward recommendations within 2026 including the way forward for the Revitalisation Scheme for Industrial Buildings. (DEVB)
- Continue to transform Kowloon East into the second core business district in Hong Kong through the ongoing 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)

## Urban renewal with a new mind-set

- Explore the relaxation of the current arrangement for transfer of plot ratio within the same district to allow cross-district transfer of unutilised plot ratio from redevelopment projects to other districts or even new development areas (NDAs), so as to enhance the market incentives for redevelopment. (DEVB)
- Reserve three sites in Kwu Tung North and Fanling North NDAs in the Northern Metropolis (NM) for the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) to consider constructing new flats as replacement units under the "Flat-for-Flat" Scheme in the future. (DEVB)
- Explore suitably increasing the plot ratio of private redevelopment projects, on a pilot basis, for the seven designated areas with more pressing redevelopment need, allowing the increased plot ratio to be transferred for utilisation in the NM or other districts, or converted into an amount to be used for offsetting the premium payable for bidding land, lease modification in other projects or in-situ land exchanges. (DEVB)
- The URA will submit to the Government the renewal master plans of the planning studies for Tsuen Wan and Sham Shui Po by end-2025 after refining the proposals and completing the technical assessments. The Government will scrutinise the proposals and consider social conditions and public sentiments in devising the relevant implementation arrangements in an orderly manner. (DEVB)

## Enhance construction safety

- Introduce a bill to amend the Buildings Ordinance into the LegCo in the first half of 2026 in order to enhance the deterrent effect against non-compliance with statutory notices or orders and severe unauthorised building works, and strengthen the regulation of contractors. (DEVB)

## Building and construction industry talents

- Host the second International Infrastructure and Projects Leaders Summit in 2026 in order to showcase Hong Kong's outstanding achievements and innovative technologies in the infrastructure field, continue to engage in liaison and exchanges with the stakeholders around the world, tell good stories of Hong Kong, establish the "international infrastructure centre" brand, take forward and facilitate the delivery of infrastructure projects with enhanced efficiency and quality, thereby making continuous contributions to the regional, national and global economic growth. (DEVB)
- Continue to communicate with relevant authorities of the Guangdong Province to explore further extension of the nationally accredited "Professional Title" evaluation mechanism to other construction-related professions such as landscape and town planning professions in 2026, thereby creating greater room for development of the industry. (DEVB)
- Continue to collaborate with the Guangdong Province and Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) to formulate the GBA Standards on the skill levels of skilled workers and technicians of more trades in the construction sector, and to take forward the "One Examination, Multiple Certification" arrangement to foster co-operation among training institutions in the GBA, thereby enhancing the quality of training of the construction sector in the GBA and nurturing talents. (DEVB)
- The Construction Industry Council will continue to provide no less than about 12 000 training places in each of the academic years from 2025/26 to 2027/28 to enhance the training of local construction personnel. (DEVB)
- Promote "multi-skilled" development of workers and offer programmes with a more flexible schedule, enabling individuals of different family status and part-time workers to receive training. (DEVB)
- Continue to collaborate with relevant educational institutions and the sector in stepping up the training of local technicians and professionals in the construction sector. (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 priority for local employment. (DEVB)
- A series of promotional activities on the Hong Kong infrastructure and the Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics education platform have been rolled out under the construction industry joint promotion campaign implemented by various departments in collaboration with organisations in the industry. We will introduce more related contents and promotion on social media in 2025-26 to promote the construction industry and attract new entrants to the industry. (DEVB)

## Conserve 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, archaeology and palaeontology, 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)

# Enhance Transport and Commuting Convenience

## Promulgate the Transport Strategy Blueprint

- Promulgate the Transport Strategy Blueprint by end-2025 to outline directions and specific measures for transport development, and take forward the relevant initiatives with a view to continuously enhancing the reliability, safety, intelligence, environmental sustainability and efficiency of the overall transport system of Hong Kong, while further strengthening the city's role as a transport hub connecting both the Mainland and the rest of the world. (TLB)

## Smart and green mass transit systems

- Press ahead with the implementation of the smart and green mass transit system projects with a view to striving for early completion; tenders will be invited for the Kai Tak project in 2025, while tender invitations for the two projects in East Kowloon and the Hung Shui Kiu/Ha Tsuen NDA will be made in 2026. (TLB)

## Accelerate the introduction of mass transit systems

- Devise a regulatory framework applicable to different mass transit system technologies and operators, thereby saving the need to enact specific legislation for each and every system or operator, and enabling the proactive and speedy introduction of new mass transit systems to Hong Kong from around the world. The target is to introduce a bill to the LegCo in 2026. (TLB)

## Promote autonomous vehicles

- Approve three designated areas for the trials of autonomous vehicles (AVs), while continuously enhancing technical standards in accordance with the principle of ensuring road safety. The aim is to enable AVs to travel cross-district and to connect to other modes of transport, thereby accelerating the development of autonomous driving without controller and of larger scale in Hong Kong, and facilitating an early transition to commercial operation. (TLB)
- Encourage Mainland automakers to seize the opportunity by leveraging Hong Kong as a base for right-hand-drive advanced driving technology, with a view to expanding into overseas markets, particularly those that use right-hand-drive vehicles. (TLB)

## Enhance personalised point-to-point transport services

- Continue to implement a series of measures to enhance the quality of taxi service, including mandating the installation of journey recording systems in all taxi compartments progressively from 2026 onwards, thus better protecting the rights of passengers and drivers. (TLB)
- Introduce a bill into the LegCo to regulate ride-hailing services and seek the passage of the relevant legislation before the end of the LegCo term in 2025, with a view to safeguarding the public's travel safety. (TLB)

## Round-the-Island Trail

- Continue to carry out works for the Round-the-Island Trail (the Trail). It is expected that 90% of the Trail will be connected by end-2027, with the aim of substantially completing the remaining larger scale works by end-2031. (DEVB)

### Cross-boundary transport

- Continue to work with the Mainland authorities to review and enhance the implementation arrangements of "Northbound Travel for Hong Kong Vehicles", thereby facilitating efficient cross-boundary travel and making better use of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB). (TLB)
- The governments of Guangdong and Hong Kong are pressing ahead with "Southbound Travel for Guangdong Vehicles" for simultaneous implementation of the automated car parks on the artificial island at the Hong Kong Port and entry into Hong Kong urban area by Guangdong vehicles via the HZMB, thereby promoting integrated development with the GBA, facilitating visitors' entry to Hong Kong, as well as making better use of the HZMB. (TLB)

## Healthcare

### Enhance the public healthcare system

- The Hospital Authority (HA) will act in full concert with the Government to deepen the reform of the public healthcare system to enhance the safety, quality and efficiency of public healthcare services. The HA will, among others, proactively implement the recommendations of the Review Committee on the Management of the Public Hospital System (Review Committee), which completed its work in end-2024, to uphold the patient safety principle, and will take forward through a high-level Governance and Structure Reform Committee the recommendations made by the Review Committee regarding issues related to its governance, accountability and relevant reform work. (HHB)
- The HA will carry through the fees and charges reform for public healthcare by implementing the first phase of reform arrangements from January 2026 onwards to enhance the support for poor, acute, serious and critical patients, and will thoroughly carry out the reform work step by step in the next two rounds of review. (HHB)
- The HA will set up dedicated teams to process and triage applications for medical fee waivers while its electronic system is being upgraded by phases to allow the public to submit documents and applications by using HA Go to minimise the procedures and time required, so as to ensure that no one will be denied adequate medical care due to lack of means. (HHB)
- The HA will review the existing charges and positioning of non-subsidised services to apply the principle of "those who can afford should pay" and to offer people with higher affordability more service options. (HHB)
- The HA, the Primary Healthcare Commission (PHC Commission) and the Department of Health (DH) will optimise service processes to provide the elderly, persons with disabilities (PWDs) and pregnant women with more convenient, more comfortable and safer consultation experiences. (HHB)
- In light of the overall service provision and planning for emergency treatment of stroke patients, set up Stroke Centres in accordance with national accreditation standards in service networks through a phased approach to improve patients' survival rate and functional recovery. (HHB)
- Gradually take forward the work on setting up Integrated Cardiovascular Diseases Centres in accordance with national accreditation standards in suitable hospitals to provide one-stop integrated diagnosis and treatment services for patients suffering from cardiovascular diseases through multi-disciplinary collaboration. (HHB)
- Drawing on the successful experience of Queen Mary Hospital and taking into account the overall service provision and planning for acute chest pain care, continue to take forward the establishment of chest pain centres in service networks in accordance with national accreditation standards, with a view to optimising treatment efficacy through standardised management and inter-departmental collaboration. (HHB)

- Shorten the waiting time for stable new case bookings for specialty of Surgery by 10% (i.e. 10 weeks) in 2026-27. (HHB)
- Devise diverse initiatives to enhance the overall ophthalmic services, including increasing the service capacity of intravitreal injections; introducing new treatments (such as using new drugs); and setting up a new high-flow cataract centre to provide day surgery services and thus shorten the waiting time. (HHB)
- Extend the Hospital Accreditation Programme to one major acute hospital in each public hospital cluster so as to cover all seven clusters under the HA, thereby ensuring the continuous improvement of Hong Kong's healthcare system in accordance with international standards and facilitating the internationalisation of national hospital accreditation standards. (HHB)
- Fully upgrade the "Degenerative Knee Joint Management Programme" to provide patients with holistic knee care solutions, including combination of physiotherapy with sports rehabilitation, weight management and integrated Chinese-Western medicine treatment, thereby encouraging early prevention and averting deterioration to an advanced stage requiring surgical treatment. (HHB)

## Healthcare manpower development

- The Task Group on New Medical School will submit to the Government its final recommendation by end-2025 after studying thoroughly the funding arrangements and financial sustainability of the new medical school as detailed in the proposals. (HHB)
- Support the hosting of national or international medical and healthcare conferences in Hong Kong, taking full advantage of the world-class professional healthcare standards and extensive experience of international co-operation of Hong Kong to promote mutual professional development as well as co-operation and exchanges with the Mainland and overseas countries. (HHB)
- To pool together healthcare professionals from around the world and promote medical research and international exchanges, the HA will launch the Talent Chain Project to build a collaborative platform for clinical services, teaching and research on healthcare services with a view to consolidating global medical resources, talent flow and technical collaboration. The programme will cover two core areas: (1) interflow of international healthcare talents with trainings to enable Hong Kong healthcare talents in the public sector to undertake attachment and research in advanced medical technologies, and (2) technical collaboration and innovation application which encourage the translation of more innovative or high-tech products from laboratory research to clinical applications. (HHB)
- Implement the requirement of mandatory continuing professional development for nurses and allied health professionals in the next three years, so as to further enhance the professional standards of healthcare professionals. (HHB)
- Subsidise training places for local primary healthcare professionals (including doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and pharmacists) through collaboration with professional institutes, academic bodies, universities and relevant organisations, and continue to strengthen the training and development for primary healthcare professionals. (HHB)

## Strengthen primary healthcare services

- Introduce a bill within 2026 for the empowerment of the PHC Commission to devise primary healthcare service standards applicable across the city and to create a multi-disciplinary service network. (HHB)

- To reinforce the role of Family Medicine Out-patient (FMOP) services under the HA in providing primary healthcare services for the underprivileged, extend the Chronic Disease Co-Care (CDCC) Pilot Scheme and women's health services to all 18 districts in Hong Kong, deploy resources in a targeted manner to increase clinic quotas in districts with greater demand, and gradually regularise the current extended FMOP service hours. (HHB)
- The three-year CDCC Pilot Scheme will be gradually developed into an integrated healthcare platform in the community to be named the CDCC Platform, which will incorporate the family doctor regime and the District Health Centre (DHC) network, leverage multi-disciplinary teams of healthcare professionals and clinical support services, promote the community drug formulary and the community pharmacy programme, as well as expand chronic disease prevention and management services with hepatitis B screening as a key initiative in the first phase. (HHB)
- Prepare for the phased integration of Elderly Health Centre services into the district health network starting from 2025-26 to enhance synergy of primary healthcare services and minimise resource duplication. (HHB)
- Conduct preparatory work for upgrading the District Health Centre Expresses (DHCEs) in Kwun Tong, Wan Chai and the North District into DHCs and continue to prepare for the upgrading of other DHCEs, with a view to expediting the establishment of DHCs across the 18 districts in Hong Kong. (HHB)
- Bolster public and subsidised dental services by stepping up the provision of oral health education, oral hygiene instructions and risk assessments in the community through DHCs and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). (HHB)
- Collaborate closely with the HA and various stakeholders (including professional groups, private healthcare institutions, NGOs and patient organisations) to strengthen the provision of end-of-life care services for terminally-ill patients and life-and-death education for the public, and ensure the smooth implementation of the Advance Decision on Life-sustaining Treatment Ordinance in mid-2026 (i.e. about 18 months after the enactment of the Ordinance). (HHB)
- The Fire Services Department (FSD) will launch the Pre-hospital Stroke Diversion Scheme in the New Territories East and New Territories West Clusters of the HA by end-2025, under which stroke patients suspected of suffering from large vessel occlusion stroke will be conveyed directly to designated hospitals for early treatment. (SB)

## Weight management

- Make reference to the national and the World Health Organization policy frameworks to raise public awareness of weight management, including strengthening health education and promotion, cultivating a supportive environment for weight management, strengthening health service delivery, adopting a life-course approach health promotion strategy, and continuously monitoring the weight trends. (HHB)

## Enhance cancer prevention, screening, diagnosis and treatment

- Collaborate with the National Cancer Center on basic cancer research, screening, early diagnosis and treatment, standardisation of diagnosis and treatment, big data application, etc.. (HHB)
- Support the hosting of the World Cancer Congress 2026 in Hong Kong, which is expected to bring together over 3 000 international leaders and experts to advance cancer prevention and management. (HHB)

- Enhance cervical cancer screening services and expand the Pilot Scheme on Human Papillomavirus Testing of Self-collected Samples from the Maternal and Child Health Centres (MCHCs) under the DH to cover the district health network under the PHC Commission, so as to enhance prevention-oriented women's health services. (HHB)
- Enhance cancer screening technologies through commissioning local universities to explore the use of AI-aided lung cancer screening. (HHB)
- Implement precision medicine through increasing the capacity to provide diverse genetic and related testing services to support more targeted and personalised cancer treatment options, thereby improving treatment efficacy and lessening side effects. (HHB)
- Leverage cancer data and biological resources to advance oncology research, accelerate the development and translation of anti-cancer drugs and related innovative therapies, while accelerating the evaluation and approval of innovative drugs under the "1+" registration mechanism as well as evaluation and introduction of these drugs to the HA Drug Formulary (HADF). (HHB)
- Accelerate the introduction of more safe and effective innovative drugs to the HADF and the coverage of the safety net through optimising the process of listing new drugs on the HADF, thereby enhancing the protection for critically ill patients in terms of drugs and medical devices. (HHB)
- Proactively develop cancer diagnostic services in a multi-disciplinary team approach and optimise the service model for providing personalised care, while increasing service capacity and acquiring additional medical equipment to meet the rising demand for cancer treatment services. (HHB)
- Proactively admit qualified non-locally trained allied health professionals, such as diagnostic radiographers and therapeutic radiographers, to join the HA, provided that professional standards are maintained. (HHB)
- Establish a care protocol and referral mechanism to facilitate the transition of cancer survivors who are in stable condition from specialist care to primary healthcare services, so that they can receive continuous follow-up, monitoring and disease management as well as timely clinical services and care. (HHB)

## Tobacco control

- The Government will implement the new phase tobacco control initiatives to safeguard public health. It will continue to take forward the tobacco control process through an incremental and multi-pronged approach by stepping up the work on smoking cessation and exploring various tobacco control measures in the medium and long term in order to eliminate the hazards posed by tobacco products on the society in all aspects, with a view to moving towards a tobacco-free Hong Kong. (HHB)

## Promote the development of Chinese Medicine

- The Chinese Medicine Hospital of Hong Kong (CMHHK) and the permanent premises of the Government Chinese Medicines Testing Institute will commence operation in phases from December 2025. (HHB)
- Publish the Chinese Medicine (CM) Development Blueprint by end-2025, which will cover clinical services, inter-professional collaboration system, development of CM professionals, quality and international standards of Chinese medicines, scientific research and industry innovation, CM culture and internationalisation, etc. (HHB)
- In its first year of operation, the CMHHK will provide out-patient and day-patient services and roll out CM services in respect of special diseases including common diseases among the elderly to provide them with more comprehensive options of healthcare services. (HHB)
- Promote the sharing of electronic health records (eHRs) in the CM sector through eHealth, and further expand the sharable scope of eHRs on eHealth between CM and western medicine practitioners. (HHB)

- Take forward the development of Integrated Chinese-Western Medicine services by the HA and explore the extension of such services to cover more disease areas where CM has strengths, including expanding the "knee osteoarthritis" programme to all hospital clusters and commencing a pilot project on "palliative care". (HHB)
- Host the GBA Conference on Inheritance, Innovation and Development of Traditional Chinese Medicine in December 2025, during which experts and stakeholders from the GBA, the Mainland and overseas will jointly explore the high-quality development and future direction of CM. (HHB)

## Combat communicable diseases

- Expand the scope of sewage surveillance for communicable diseases from COVID-19 to seasonal influenza. (HHB)

## Strengthen professional regulation of healthcare services

- Strengthen the functions of the DH in regulating healthcare facilities and healthcare professionals, consult the LegCo in the first half of 2026 on the implementation of the Private Healthcare Facilities Ordinance to prohibit unauthorised premises from using certain titles or descriptions, and step up law enforcement actions against unlicensed persons to better protect the well-being of the public. (HHB)

## Mental health

- Regularise the implementation of the Three-Tier School-based Emergency Mechanism in secondary schools and extend it on a trial basis to the Primary Four to Six, to help early identification of students in need in primary and secondary schools and strengthen support for them. (EDB, LWB, HHB)
- Provide training for enhancing school social workers' capabilities in handling mental health issues of students through the Dedicated Fund for subvented welfare service organisations. (LWB, EDB)
- Step up the promotion of mental health in the community by implementing the 4Rs Mental Health Charter and the Mental Health Workplace Charter in primary and secondary schools. (HHB, EDB)
- Encourage more school staff to receive training related to mental health first aid, and introduce a "special recognition category" to commend schools and organisations for arranging a specific number of staff members to receive training in relation to mental health (e.g. mental health first aid). (HHB, EDB)
- Launch the Pilot Programme on Training for Mental Health Promotion Ambassadors, under which Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness, in collaboration with social welfare service units and other stakeholders in their serving districts, will mobilise and train individuals of all ages and from all walks of life to serve as mental health promotion ambassadors. The aim is to promote healthy lifestyles, foster resilience and establish care support networks. (LWB)
- The DH will update relevant guidelines through an inter-departmental expert group to mitigate the impact of social media on the health of children and adolescents. (HHB)
- Encourage more institutions to take the initiative to promote mental health on campus by, for example, stipulating a basic mental health programme as compulsory for first-year students, and providing related support for needy students. (EDB)
- Extend the Healthy Mind Pilot Project to cover six more pilot districts in 2026, bringing the total number of DHCs implementing the project to nine. (HHB)
- Enhance mental health services by leveraging technologies. Initiatives include strengthening telehealth services for psychiatric day hospitals and outreach services to provide suitable patients with more convenient service options. (HHB)

- Enhance the text counselling platform for online emotional support and the Cyber Youth Support Teams by strengthening AI application for more precise identification of high-risk support targets. (LWB)
- Complete the formulation of the stepped care model on mental health by end-2025, setting out the roles of different mental health professionals and stakeholders as well as their division of work in the provision of mental health services. Training aimed at enhancing professionals' awareness of making referrals will be strengthened, and a referral mechanism will be established. (HHB, LWB)

# Green and Low-carbon Living Environment

## Develop Hong Kong into a demonstration base for green technology

- Promote the commercialisation of green I&T deliverables, including supporting market development of technologies for battery-swapping electric vehicles (EVs) and automated battery-swapping stations, and continuing to drive the market towards expediting carbon reduction of existing buildings. (EEB)
- Strive to roll out an enhancement scheme within 2026 to encourage and facilitate the commissioning of small-scale district cooling systems or centralised multi-building cooling systems by non-governmental entities, from the aspects of technology, taxation, floor area arrangements, etc., with a view to enhancing the popularity of the relevant technologies and promoting the development of green technology. (EEB)
- Continue to provide impetus to the relevant sectors and research institutes to conduct more research and development (R&D) projects which can help Hong Kong decarbonise and enhance environmental protection through the $400 million Green Tech Fund, under which around $150 million has been granted to support 33 R&D projects from local universities, designated public research institutes and private enterprises. (EEB)
- Continue to support local development of green technology, transforming R&D projects with application potential into commercially valuable technologies or products and facilitating their production locally. Work on this front includes assisting two local companies in setting up production lines to upcycle local waste materials into high-value products, namely core materials for electricity-free cooling products and acoustic metamaterial products. (EEB)

## Enhance charging networks for EVs

- Provide an additional 3 000 fast chargers by end-2028. (EEB)
- Plan to roll out six sites for the provision of fast charging stations, while bus operators will open up their charging facilities for use by other vehicles, thereby making Hong Kong's charging network more comprehensive. (EEB)

## Reduce and recycle waste to achieve "zero landfill"

- Continue to enhance the level of public recycling services, optimise service hours and locations of GREEN@COMMUNITY facilities, support residential buildings in recycling, and promote waste separation for recycling in PRH estates. (EEB)
- Continue to promote green lifestyle by encouraging the catering trade to progressively increase the usage of non-plastic containers on a trial basis in the light of the actual situation, while collecting more comprehensive data to support the optimisation of product design and supply chain, so as to take forward the reduction of plastics usage in a pragmatic manner. (EEB)

- Continue to enhance the food waste recycling network by increasing the number of food waste smart recycling bins or food waste collection facilities across the territory to about 1 600 within 2025, with a view to realising "one bin per block" in PRH estates, and explore ways to increase the cost-effectiveness of collecting and processing food waste. (EEB)
- On formulating relevant subsidiary legislation regarding the producer responsibility schemes on EV batteries, plastic beverage containers and beverage cartons, the consultation with the industries is underway and, in the light of the actual situation, the LegCo Panel on Environmental Affairs will be consulted within 2026. (EEB)
- The I · PARK1 under construction near Shek Kwu Chau will be the first waste-to-energy (WtE) facility to adopt advanced incineration technology for Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) treatment in Hong Kong, with a daily treatment capacity of 3 000 tonnes of MSW, and will progressively commence operation by end-2025. (EEB)
- The tender of the second facility – I · PARK2, located at Tsang Tsui in Tuen Mun, will be closed on 10 October 2025 and it is planned to seek funding approval from the LegCo in 2026, with a view to expediting the project commencement for expanding the WtE capacity. (EEB)
- Hong Kong's first modern paper pulping facility in EcoPark is expected to commence trial operation by end-2025 with full operation to be implemented in 2026 to expand the types and scale of waste paper treatment in Hong Kong for recycling purpose. (EEB)
- Continue efforts with relevant departments to identify more sites suitable for development of upcycling by the recycling trade and strengthen support for developing the green industries. The first site to be used for recycling purpose under the enhanced short-term tenancy arrangement will be released in the fourth quarter of 2025, while another two sites will be progressively made available from the first quarter of 2026. (EEB)

## Strive towards carbon neutrality

- Extend the carbon audit practice applicable to government buildings to government infrastructure progressively to further enhance the Government's carbon management. The Government will complete carbon audits for major government infrastructure, including water treatment works, sewage treatment facilities, fresh water and salt water pumping facilities, road lighting systems and ventilation systems at public transport interchanges by end-2025. (EEB)
- The amended Buildings Energy Efficiency Ordinance will be implemented in full on 20 September 2026 to extend the scope of regulation and shorten the interval of energy audit. It is estimated that an additional 500 million kilowatt-hours of electricity, equivalent to the annual electricity consumption of about 150 000 three-person households, can be saved annually from 2035. (EEB)

## Jointly develop the GBA into a beautiful bay area

- Take part in building the GBA into an international first-class beautiful bay area. With Victoria Harbour as the core, efforts will be made according to the planned schedule to bring Mirs Bay and Port Shelter included in the list of "Beautiful Bays" as a response to the National 14th Five-Year Plan on promoting the building of beautiful bays. (EEB)
- Improve the quality of marine ecological environment through water quality improvement, enhanced monitoring and cleaning of the shores, restoration of coral communities and seagrass beds for the protection of marine ecology to meet the national standards for "Beautiful Bays". (EEB)

- Continue to rectify sewer misconnections and step up water quality monitoring with the remediation area extended to cover Central, Tsim Sha Tsui, Hung Hom, Kwun Tong, etc.. Precise measures will be formulated according to the pollution situations to systematically remediate nearshore pollution and odour problems. The target is to reduce the overall pollution load by 50% against the 2022 benchmarks by end-2027. (EEB)
- Make further improvements to the water quality of the Victoria Harbour to ensure the smooth running of the 15th National Games triathlon event and attract more world-class sports events to be held in Hong Kong. (EEB)

### Conserve biodiversity and ecology

- Update the Hong Kong Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan by end-2025 the earliest in accordance with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted under the promotion of China and the China National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan (2023-2030) promulgated in 2024, with a view to strengthening ecological conservation and contributing to national and global biodiversity conservation. (EEB)
- Take forward the development of the Sam Po Shue Wetland Conservation Park to promote wetland conservation, eco-education and eco-recreation as well as the modernisation of aquaculture, with a view to achieving co-existence and synergy of ecological conservation and fisheries development. (EEB)

### Public markets

- Continue to implement the Market Modernisation Programme, including the stall enhancement projects at Ap Lei Chau Market Cooked Food Centre and Luen Wo Hui Market Cooked Food Centre which are expected to be completed in the second and third quarter of 2026 respectively, to improve the environment of the cooked food centres. (EEB)
- Continue to take forward the new public market projects in Tin Shui Wai, Tseung Kwan O and Kwu Tung North NDA, with the Tin Shui Wai project expected to be completed in 2027, and the remaining two in 2028. (EEB)

## Support the Local Economy

### Support SMEs

- Extend the application period for the 80% Guarantee Product under the SME Financing Guarantee Scheme for two years to end-March 2028, further increase the total loan guarantee commitment under the scheme by $20 billion to $310 billion, and further extend the principal moratorium arrangement for one year. (CEDB)
- Encourage banks to continue to be compassionate and flexible in handling the credit needs of businesses with good repayment capacity. (FSTB)
- Reduce water and sewage charges for non-domestic accounts by 50% for a period of one year, subject to a monthly ceiling of $10,000 and $5,000 respectively per account. About 260 000 non-domestic accounts are expected to benefit from this measure, thus alleviating pressure on business operations. (DEVB, EEB, FSTB)
- Reduce trade effluent surcharge by 50% for a period of one year, which is expected to benefit about 35 000 businesses mainly in the catering industry. (EEB, FSTB)
- Waive the fees for the first issue or renewal of licences and permits for hawkers, food businesses, agriculture and fisheries industries, liquor licence, etc. for one year, which is anticipated to benefit over 60 000 licensees. (EEB, FSTB)
- Inject $1.43 billion into the BUD Fund and expand its geographical scope to cover another eight economies, including Belt and Road countries. (CEDB)

- Strengthen the promotion and assist enterprises in participating in exhibitions and export marketing activities through "Easy BUD". (CEDB)
- To help Hong Kong exporters cope with the challenges posed by the volatile trading environment, the Hong Kong Export Credit Insurance Corporation (ECIC) will further collaborate with financial institutions to enhance financing support for local e-commerce businesses using different e-commerce platforms. (CEDB)
- The ECIC will further expand the coverage of its free buyer credit checks to all of its insured markets, so as to assist Hong Kong enterprises in diversifying export markets. (CEDB)
- Set up the "Economic and Trade Express" by joining forces of Economic and Trade Offices and the overseas offices of InvestHK and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) to form a functional platform for creating synergy, which will proactively organise overseas business missions for local SMEs and start-ups to explore business opportunities, while facilitating more enterprises to invest and establish businesses in Hong Kong, thereby promoting the two-way flow of enterprises and investments. (CEDB)
- Invite leaders from the local business sector etc. to attend economic, trade and investment promotion activities held in overseas markets during their outbound visits, and promote specifically the advantages of Hong Kong to the business sectors abroad. (CEDB)
- Enhance Cyberport's Digital Transformation Support Pilot Programme to provide SMEs with subsidies, on a matching basis, to enable enterprises to apply AI and cybersecurity solutions for enhanced competitiveness and information security. (ITIB)
- Allocate additional resources for the HKTDC to continue to organise the Hong Kong Shopping Festival, covering the Mainland and ASEAN e-commerce markets over the next three years (i.e. from 2026 to 2028) to promote Hong Kong brands. (CEDB)
- Strengthen training and information services through the four SME centres, Mentorship Programme of the Trade and Industry Department (TID) and the E-Commerce Express under the HKTDC to enable enterprises to grasp the situation and business opportunities of the Mainland and ASEAN e-commerce markets. (CEDB)
- Implement a programme entitled "Creativity · E-commerce – Beyond Limits" and provide one-stop business matching and referral services to enhance the interface between Hong Kong enterprises and e-commerce service providers, with a view to enhancing the competitiveness of Hong Kong products on cross-border e-commerce platforms. (CEDB)
- To further expedite the approval process for applications for outside seating accommodation (OSA) of restaurants, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will proactively co-ordinate various relevant departments to adopt a new joint-vetting mechanism, and, when necessary, escalate the process regarding complicated applications to the relevant Permanent Secretary or even the Deputy Chief Secretary for Administration for steer; at the same time, the procedures will be streamlined, including adopting standardised Government rent for OSA; allowing some applications to proceed without requirement for increasing kitchen area or bathroom facilities; and treating applications involving walkways with a remaining width of three metres or more after provision of OSA as generally complying with relevant basic requirements of the road without the need to process them on an individual basis. (DCSO, EEB)
- To support the local construction industry, an additional $30 billion will be earmarked in the next two to three years to increase spending on works projects to continue driving economic development. (FSTB)

- The TID will establish for the industry a regular mechanism to disseminate the latest economic and trade information of the Mainland and around the world more effectively. (CEDB)
- The FSD will implement the Registered Fire Engineer Scheme by end-2025 to offer the market an alternative for completing the fire safety risk assessment and certification procedures, thereby facilitating business operation and enabling the industry in exploring new opportunities. (SB)

## Develop the food industry

- Formulate the operational details of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Inspection, Quarantine and Hygiene Requirements for Meat Products Exported from Hong Kong to the Mainland and the Cooperation Arrangement for the Export of Dairy Products from Hong Kong to the Mainland, so that relevant Hong Kong-manufactured food products can be sold in the Mainland. (EEB)
- Assist the industry in making good use of the special arrangements under the Cooperation Agreement on the Supervision of Safety and Facilitation of Customs Clearance of Food Products Manufactured in Hong Kong Exported to the Mainland. (EEB)
- Reserve land in the vicinity of the Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point for promoting the development of the food industry, including food wholesale, processing and trading, which in the long run may develop into a food industrial park and a place where food production synergises with tourism. (EEB)
- Continue with the preparatory work for relocating the food control facilities at Man Kam To to Heung Yuen Wai. (EEB)
- Introduce a new, unified brand for local agricultural and fisheries products in mid-2026. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will establish production standards, a certification and traceability system, etc. and engage in publicity efforts to enhance product awareness and brand value, thereby strengthening the competiveness of local produce. (EEB)

## Enhance food safety

- Review the food safety standards for sweeteners in food to propose legislative amendments, and launch public consultation in 2026. (EEB)
- The Centre for Food Safety will continue to conduct the Second Hong Kong Total Diet Study, which will serve as a scientific basis for food safety risk assessment. (EEB)

## Promote the development of the agriculture and fisheries industries

- Start providing five units of deep-sea cages in new fish culture zones by end-2025 for rental by the fisheries industry, and offer necessary financial and technical support for mariculturists to assist the industry in developing deep-sea mariculture. Our target is to increase local mariculture production by 10 times within 15 years and promote modernised aquaculture. (EEB)
- Promote the modernisation and intensification of production of the livestock farming industry by completing site formation works within 2026 to facilitate the construction of the first environmentally-friendly multi-storey pig farm in Lo Wu by the livestock sector. (EEB)
- Conduct preparatory work for Agricultural Park Phase 2 First Stage development, and continue to take forward the Modernised Techno-Agricultural Park project through public-private partnership. (EEB)

- Continue to promote modernised urban farming, including launching pilot projects, setting up hydroponic farms-cum-stalls in suitable public markets, encouraging the incorporation of urban farming elements into private development projects, as well as exploring the feasibility of making suitable adjustments to the building requirements of urban farming facilities. (EEB, DEVB)
- Promote the development of leisure farming and fisheries by, for example, exploring "dual uses of vessels", enhancing the "Agri enJoy" Scheme and launching the "Fish enJoy" Scheme; provide financial and technical support as well as strengthen publicity and promotion. (EEB)

### Promote a pet-friendly culture

- Allow restaurant operators to apply for permission to let dogs enter their food premises. Approved restaurants will display clear signage to indicate that customers may enter with dogs. Pet-friendly restaurants will create new business opportunities for the industry. (EEB)

## Labour support and protection

### Ensure employment priority for local workers

- Implement new initiatives to combat abuse of the Enhanced Supplementary Labour Scheme (ESLS). Initiatives include extending the local recruitment period for employers applying to import waiters/waitresses and junior cooks from four weeks to six weeks, during which each employer must attend once a week a job fair organised by the Labour Department; and tightening the manning ratio requirement by changing the basis of applying the ratio from all posts of an employer currently to each post under application. In other words, an employer applying to import one waiter/waitress and one junior cook must have already employed two full-time local waiters/waitresses and two full-time local junior cooks. (LWB)
- Announce in the second quarter of 2026 the findings of the review of the ESLS. The review covers the scope, operation and implementation arrangements of the ESLS, measures to promote and ensure employment priority for local workers, as well as measures to protect the rights and benefits of imported workers. (LWB)
- Complete the mid-term update of manpower projection by 2026, focusing on data analysis for industries with a high proportion of imported workers, and give priority to relevant data analysis in order to provide the relevant part of analysis results earlier. (LWB)

### Enhance actions to combat illegal employment

- Step up efforts to combat illegal employment, establish a dedicated hotline for reporting illegal workers, and strengthen intelligence collection and inter-departmental joint enforcement operations to safeguard the employment opportunities of local workers. (SB, LWB)

### Reform the Employees Retraining Board and strengthen local skills training

- The Employees Retraining Board (ERB) has enhanced training, career planning services and other aspects since early 2025, and has already outlined a preliminary reform roadmap for the coming three years. (LWB)
- The ERB will strengthen its industry consultative mechanism, identify the demand for and gaps of core skills in a targeted manner in order to devise a skills-based training framework, and will collaborate with higher educational institutions and guide other training bodies in developing courses of various types and levels to fill the skill gaps. (LWB)
- The ERB will encourage more employers to participate in the "One-Stop Training and Employment Scheme" for trades facing severe manpower shortage and review its effectiveness in early 2026. (LWB)

- The ERB will launch micro-credential courses recognised by industries for trainees to flexibly choose from, so as to bolster labour supply in a timely manner for industries with labour shortage. It will also make good use of applied technology to offer diversified and flexible modes of learning. (LWB)
- Work with the ERB to take forward the medium- to long-term reform. Upon formulation of the full implementation plan by the ERB by end-2025, the Government will amend the Employees Retraining Ordinance to, among others, rename the ERB and enable it to perform its functions more flexibly and effectively. The target is to complete the legislative amendments by mid-2027. (LWB)
- Provide training allowance for registered apprentices and subsidise graduated apprentices in undertaking upskilling courses of relevant trades in the 2025/26 and 2026/27 academic years. (LWB)

## Optimise the Re-employment Allowance Pilot Scheme

- Continue to collect and collate information and statistics on participants and their placements, and conduct a mid-term review of the Re-employment Allowance Pilot Scheme in the first quarter of 2026, along with the Employment Programme for the Elderly and Middle-aged, so as to explore further measures for encouraging silver employment. (LWB)

## Set the first minimum wage rate according to the new annual review mechanism

- The Government has agreed to adopt the new mechanism comprising a formula proposed by the Minimum Wage Commission for implementing annual review of the statutory minimum wage (SMW) rate. The first SMW rate derived under the new mechanism is expected to take effect on 1 May 2026. (LWB)

## Safeguard employment rights and benefits

- Implement the new "continuous contract" requirement under the Employment Ordinance starting from 18 January 2026, making it easier for employees to enjoy comprehensive employment rights and benefits. (LWB)
- Adjust the maximum daily rates of medical expenses reimbursable under the Employees' Compensation Ordinance and the Pneumoconiosis and Mesothelioma (Compensation) Ordinance to tie in with the implementation of new fees and charges for public healthcare services on 1 January 2026. (LWB)
- Commence legislative amendment work for the implementation of Phase Two Proposal of Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) "Full Portability" within 2026, with a view to benefiting employees whose employment commenced before 1 May 2025. (FSTB)
- Continue to arrange for the remaining MPF schemes to onboard to the eMPF Platform, creating room for fee reduction for scheme members. (FSTB)

## Protect digital platform workers

- Take forward the initiative of improving the work injury compensation mechanism for digital platform workers through legislation. (LWB)
- Continue to make good use of the Tripartite Committee for the Digital Platform Industry comprising the Government, digital platform companies and labour organisations to discuss issues of concern to the stakeholders. (LWB)

## Foster sound trade union management

- Implement the amended Trade Unions Ordinance starting from 5 January 2026 to strengthen the safeguarding of national security and foster sound trade union management. (LWB)

### Enhance occupational safety and health

- Continue to step up inspection and enforcement, publicity and promotion, education and training, etc. with a view to building a stronger occupational safety and health (OSH) culture and reducing accidents; make good use of innovative technologies and AI, such as drones to strengthen inspections and evidence collection capabilities; and support the industry to develop technology products for enhancing OSH. (LWB)

## Social Welfare

### Targeted poverty alleviation

- Launch the fourth cohort of the Strive and Rise Programme by end-2025 and enhance the programme by utilising $10 million from the Hong Kong Jockey Club's "Dedicated Funding for the Chief Executive" to enrich the Strive and Rise Alumni Club's activities, providing young people with training and experience that integrate Hong Kong pop culture and traditional Chinese arts. (CSO, LWB)
- Inject $180 million into the Child Development Fund (CDF) in 2026-27 to continue launching projects in support of the longer-term development of senior primary school students from disadvantaged communities, and further enhance different elements of the projects by drawing on the successful experience of the Strive and Rise Programme, with a view to reducing inter-generational poverty. (LWB)
- Set up six additional Community Living Rooms (CLRs) through tripartite collaboration among the Government, the business sector and the community. Together with the nine CLRs already launched, they are expected to benefit about 7 000 SDU households, serving over 1.4 million attendances. (CSO, LWB)
- Roll out the "Co-building a Caring Society Funding Scheme" to encourage family offices that have been involved in philanthropic endeavours to provide resources for implementing projects benefitting the disadvantaged groups. (LWB)
- Launch a pilot programme to provide time-limited cash incentive to households leaving the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme and are eligible to receiving the Working Family Allowance, so as to promote self-reliance. (LWB)
- Complete in 2025-26 the assessment of two targeted poverty alleviation projects, namely the Pilot Programme on CLR and the School-based After School Care Service Scheme, and publish the Report on Impact of Targeted Poverty Alleviation Strategy in Hong Kong in mid-2026. (CSO, LWB, EDB)

### Ageing in place

- Increase the total number of Community Care Service Vouchers for the Elderly by 4 000 to 16 000 in 2026-27. (LWB)
- Set up three new Neighbourhood Elderly Centres to strengthen support for the elderly at district level, which are expected to serve some 3 000 elderly persons annually. (LWB)
- Lease newly built government welfare facilities on a pilot basis to allow service operators greater flexibility in offering day care and support services for the elderly under different funding modes. (LWB)
- Enhance the Integrated Discharge Support Programme for Elderly Patients to provide social welfare service support for discharged elderly persons in need. (LWB)
- Introduce legislative amendments into the LegCo in the first half of 2026 to amend the Building (Planning) Regulations by way of negative vetting, with a view to implementing the mandatory design requirements for elderly-friendly buildings. (DEVB)

## Strengthen residential care services

- Provide about 700 new subsidised residential care service places in 2026-27. (LWB)
- Increase the total number of Residential Care Service Vouchers for the Elderly by 1 000 to 7 000 in 2026-27. (LWB)
- Subsidise eligible serving health workers of residential care homes to enrol in the new professional diploma programme for Health&Care Practitioners to nurture professional care talents dedicated to the welfare sector, thereby enhancing residential care services and promote the development of the sector. (LWB)

## Enhance elderly care arrangements in the GBA

- Launch a three-year pilot scheme by end-2025 to subsidise elderly CSSA recipients choosing to retire in Guangdong to reside in designated residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) in the province, thereby enhancing their quality of life. Each eligible elderly person will receive a monthly subsidy of $5,000, subject to a quota of 1 000. (LWB)
- Continuously expand the Residential Care Services Scheme in Guangdong. Starting from October 2025, the number of Mainland RCHEs participating in the scheme will increase from 15 to 24, while the number of cities covered will increase from six to eight. (LWB)
- Launch a two-year pilot arrangement by end-2025 to share part of the medical expenses that Hong Kong elderly participants of the Residential Care Services Scheme in Guangdong need to bear on their own under the National Basic Medical Insurance Policy. (LWB)

## Support carers

- Earmark an annual recurrent expenditure of $500 million to roll out a series of measures as follows to enhance support for carers. (LWB, HHB, HB, HYAB)
- Preliminarily connect the data of the Social Welfare Department (SWD), the HA and the HKHA through the first phase, which has already been set up, of the Carer Support Data Platform, and progressively connect the data of more government departments and public organisations to expand the Carer Support Data Platform, with a view to better identifying and assisting high-risk carers. (LWB, HHB, HB)
- Upon learning from the HA that a high-risk carer has been hospitalised, the SWD will arrange for staff to reach out and if necessary, offer emergency support to the care recipients. (LWB, HHB)
- Consolidate the data of the HKHA and the SWD to identify high-risk carers of elderly persons and PWDs as well as singleton or doubleton elderly households who lack sufficient community support. (LWB, HB)
- Build up an improved community support network by, among others, sharing data with District Services and Community Care Teams (Care Teams) so that Care Teams can visit and provide care to households at risk in a more targeted way. (LWB, HYAB)
- Continue the implementation of the "District Services and Community Care Teams - Scheme on Supporting Elderly and Carers" for three years by inviting Care Teams to actively provide support for and pay visit to high-risk families, and assisting households referred by Care Teams in installing and using the emergency alarm system as necessary. (LWB)
- Install and test an intelligent fall detection system for 300 high-risk tenants in the hope of making appropriate intervention in case of accidents. (LWB)
- Continue the implementation of the Support for Carers Project for three years with a view to providing training for frontline property management personnel in assisting carers in need. (LWB)
- Enhance the AI chatbot function of the existing Information Gateway for Carers. (LWB)

### Support persons in rehabilitation

- Formulate guidelines for consumers of rehabilitation products, with electric wheelchairs, electric smart beds and robotic exoskeletons as pilot items. The guidelines will set out basic technical and operational requirements of rehabilitation products in terms of safety, performance, durability, reliability and so on, with a view to assisting the elderly, PWDs and their carers in selecting suitable products. (LWB)
- Further strengthen rehabilitation services for PWDs by providing about 450 additional places for day, residential and pre-school rehabilitation services, including 80 through the Bought Place Scheme for Private Residential Care Homes for PWDs, 220 at Special Child Care Centres, 100 at Day Activity Centres (DACs), and 50 at Hostels for Severely Mentally Handicapped Persons. (LWB)
- Starting from the second quarter of 2026, progressively introduce one-stop support and care services at hostels for severely and moderately mentally handicapped persons. (LWB)
- Increase the number of places for extended care at hostels with DACs/integrated vocational rehabilitation services centres so that the PWDs therein can age in a more suitable care environment. This will release about 700 day rehabilitation service places to provide day training for PWDs living in the community, thereby alleviating the pressure on carers. (LWB)

## Social Development

### Establish a Working Group on Ageing Society Strategies

- Collaborate with the Federation of Hong Kong Industries to formulate the "Silver Q-Mark", and further explore with the industry to develop more GBA Standards on silver products, to facilitate the provision of more quality silver products for the elderly. (DCSO, CEDB)
- Set up a Working Group on Ageing Society Strategies under the steer of the Deputy Chief Secretary for Administration to co-ordinate efforts of various bureaux in formulating relevant strategies. Besides covering areas such as elderly care, healthcare, housing, culture and leisure, and gerontechnology, the working group will also consider promoting the further development of silver economy. The working group will take into account the views of the Elderly Commission, and submit a report in 2026. (DCSO and relevant bureaux)

### Promote women's development

- Increase the annual funding of the Women Empowerment Fund from $20 million to $30 million to subsidise women's organisations and NGOs for launching more projects to promote women's development. (HYAB)
- Host the second Hong Kong Family and Women Development Summit in 2026 to explore measures with relevant stakeholders for continuously promoting women and family development in Hong Kong. (HYAB)
- Continue to implement the "She Inspires" Mentorship Programme, and increase the mentee quota for its second cohort by 50% to 120 to match more local female university students with women leader mentors, and to provide relevant training and activities. (HYAB)
- Keep the one-stop family and women information portal under review and enrich its content. (HYAB)
- Continue to implement the Maintenance Mediation Pilot Scheme under the Community Care Fund to subsidise an NGO in providing mediation services on maintenance to resolve related disputes. (HYAB)

## Promote fertility and maternity-friendly measures

- Extend the claim period of additional child allowance for newborns from one year to two years. Starting from the year of assessment 2026/27, a taxpayer may claim twice the allowance (i.e. $260,000) for each child in the first two years following childbirth. This measure is applicable to all children under the age of two at the end of the year of assessment. (FSTB)
- From 2026-27 onwards, 15 new aided child care centres (CCCs) will be set up in three years to provide approximately 1 500 day care service places for children aged between birth and three years old, almost doubling the existing scale. (LWB)
- The SWD will allocate more CCC service places for infants and toddlers aged between birth and two years old as appropriate. (LWB)
- Expand the School-based After School Care Service Scheme in the 2025/26 school year by removing the existing cap on service places, thus enabling primary students in need to stay at school outside school hours for care and learning support and allowing their parents to take up jobs. Both dual working families and single-parent families will be benefitted. (LWB)
- Promote maternity-friendly measures, set up dedicated counters for pregnant women to facilitate their waiting for medical services, and enhance a range of pre-pregnancy and prenatal services. The PHC Commission will, together with the Family Planning Association of Hong Kong, the MCHCs under the DH, and the Obstetrics and Gynaecology Departments of the HA, enhance health education and services for women during pre-pregnancy, antenatal and postnatal stages. Relevant practical information will also be provided to strengthen their confidence and ability in self-care and baby care. (HHB)
- The Council on Human Reproductive Technology has made amendments to the legislation to remove the statutory storage periods of gametes and embryos for own use, offering greater flexibility to people who wish to give birth. The amendments will take effect on 1 December 2025. (HHB)
- The HA will continue to increase the quota for assisted reproductive service from 1 100 two years ago to 1 500 at the end of 2025-26. (HHB)
- Continue to encourage more employers, through the Good Employer Charter, to participate and adopt family-friendly employment practices that are conducive to childcare, such as flexible working hours. (LWB)

## Promote the development of social enterprises

- Consolidate existing resources to launch the Social Enterprise Development Subsidy Scheme, providing social enterprises with support on training and business development, and facilitating the collaborative development of social enterprises and private organisations. (HYAB)

## Amend the laws on sexual offences

- Actively study the reports published by the Law Reform Commission of Hong Kong to improve Hong Kong's laws on sexual offences, thereby better protecting children and persons with mental impairment. The target is to complete legislative amendments within the current term of the Government. (SB)

## Protect children and provide support for students

- Set up an Integrated Family Service Centre in Kwu Tung North NDA of the NM to support families and children in the area by providing one-stop services on prevention, support and crisis intervention, as well as enhancing the resilience and cohesion of family members. (LWB)

- Strengthen public education and collaboration among relevant stakeholders to provide divorced/separated parents with encouragement, assistance and education on continuous and joint parental responsibilities in raising children in their best interest. (LWB)
- Offer transitional support to young people leaving the residential child care services without family support, so as to help them embark on an independent new stage of life. (LWB)
- Continue to provide training and relevant resources for specified professionals from the social welfare, education and healthcare sectors to enhance their knowledge and ability for early identification and handling of suspected child abuse cases to tie in with the implementation of the Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Ordinance. (LWB, EDB, HHB)
- Provide children with special needs receiving On-site Pre-school Rehabilitation Services with bridging and support services during their first term in primary school to facilitate their smooth transition and prompt adaptation to primary school life, as well as relieve the pressure of their family members/carers. (LWB)

## Family education

- Continue to implement the Funding Scheme on the Promotion of Family Education to subsidise non-profit-making community projects on promoting family education, with a view to promoting family values and strengthening family building, family education and family virtues. (HYAB)

## Provide support for 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). (CSO, CMAB)
- Set up one additional EM Care Team under each of the Support Service Centres serving the North and Islands Districts to cope with the anticipated population growth and the demand of EMs in the two districts. (HYAB)
- Establish the Youth Network and Women's Network at the 10 Support Service Centres for EM across the city to organise more activities specifically for EM youths and women, thereby helping them unleash their potential and promoting their physical and mental well-being. (HYAB)
- Establish an EM interpretation and translation service centre in December 2025 to reduce language barrier concerns of EM. (HYAB)
- Continue the publicity efforts on building a more harmonious and inclusive community, including launching a radio programme by end-2025 to introduce EM culture, with a view to promoting racial integration. (HYAB)
- Take forward the pilot project of providing emotional support and counselling services for EMs through a service centre. (HHB)
- Continue to implement the internship programme in Government departments for ethnic minority post-secondary students and provide basic Chinese language training for the workplace. (CSB)
- Government departments may design their own work-oriented language proficiency tests to provide applicants with an additional way to meet the language proficiency requirements for employment. (CSB)
- Continue to disseminate government recruitment information to EMs to attract talents from different backgrounds to join the civil service. (CSB)
- Introduce the HSK Chinese Proficiency Test learning materials tailored for non-Chinese speaking (NCS) students from primary to the junior-secondary level in the 2026/27 school year to provide them with tailor-made teaching materials. (EDB)

- Continue to provide after-school Chinese language courses and organise cross-school teacher learning communities, so as to improve the Chinese language proficiency of NCS students. (EDB)
- The HA is exploring the use of AI interpretation tools to supplement the existing in-person interpretation service , with a view to assisting healthcare staff in communicating with EMs immediately when handling common enquiries during registration and before/after medical appointments, thereby enhancing patients' experience and fostering a caring and inclusive healthcare environment. (HHB)

## Eliminate discrimination

- Continue to support the work of the Equal Opportunities Commission, timely review areas which require priority attention under the existing anti-discrimination ordinances, and step up promotion and public education, so as to demonstrate the HKSAR Government's determination to strengthen the building of a harmonious and inclusive society. (CMAB)

## Continuously enhance Care Team services

- Under a regularised mode of operation and with increased government funding, Care Team services will continue seamlessly so as to further enhance community support network. Care Teams in the 18 districts will shortly commence their second term of service. The key performance indicators for the second term of service of the Care Teams will be enhanced. In older areas, support on building management will be strengthened, while in newly developed areas, assistance will be offered to recently moved-in families. (HYAB)
- Strengthen training for Care Teams so as to enhance liaison and collaboration with government departments, public utilities and district organisations in emergency support to build their capability in responding to unforeseen situations. (HYAB)

## Improve building management

- The Home Affairs Department will implement a host of measures to improve building management, including establishing working groups under District Councils (DC) so that DC members can share their experiences in good building management practices in districts; co-organising a forum with the Property Management Services Authority to share the best practices in building and property management. (HYAB)
- Implement the Pilot Scheme on Joint Property Management in Kowloon City, Yau Tsim Mong, Tsuen Wan and Sham Shui Po for one year to facilitate owners of "three-nil" buildings and old single-block buildings to jointly engage a property management company for building management. Subject to the implementation outcome, the Pilot Scheme will be extended to other districts. (HYAB)
- Continue to review the Building Management Ordinance and gather stakeholders' views to follow up on building management issues, with a view to further promoting good building management. (HYAB)
- Roll out a pilot scheme in the first half of 2026 to enhance the testing procedures for handling water seepage problems in buildings by utilising technology to expedite the identification of the seepage situation, clarify responsibilities and require owners to check and rectify the situation within a designated timeframe lest the Government will take further actions and charge the owners, thereby inducing owners to fulfil their responsibility to properly maintain their properties, and actively promote mediation as a way to resolve disputes among residents. (DCSO, EEB, DEVB, DOJ)
- The FSD will introduce an Internet-of-Things-fire detection system to spare specific old buildings from installing equipment such as fire hose reels and water tanks, thereby expediting enhancements of the overall fire safety standards of old buildings. (SB)