

Policy & Budget Matching Exercise by The British Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong

Chief Executive Policy Address – 19 October 2022
Financial Secretary Budget Address 22 February 2023

Contents:

1. Policy & Budget Matching Exercise –

British Chamber Policy Address Submission / Budget Submission

- Matching policy and budget proposals from the British Chamber’s 1 August 2022 [Policy Address Submission](#) and 14 December 2022 [Budget Submission](#), with relevant announcements in the [Chief Executive’s Policy Address speech](#) and [Policy Measures](#) delivered on 19 October 2022. The content focuses on new initiatives proposed by the administration.
- Matching relevant announcements in the Financial Secretary’s [Budget speech](#) delivered on 23 February 2023.

2. Additional Points of Interest

This section highlights other announcements from the Policy Address speech and Policy Measures document which may be of relevance and interest to Chamber Members.

Please note throughout the document,

Items in column ‘British Chamber Ask / Proposal’ –

Text in black *is taken from the Chamber’s [Policy Address Submission](#). Text in orange is taken from the Chamber’s Budget Submission.*

Items in column ‘Corresponding Proposal in the Policy Address’ –

Text in grey *is taken from the [Policy Address speech](#) – numbers relate to the *paragraph numbers of the speech*. Text in green is taken from the Budget Address – numbers relate to the paragraph numbers of the speech.*

Additional information is available on the Policy Address website:

<https://www.policyaddress.gov.hk/2022/en/index.html>

Additional information on the 2023/2024 Budget is available on the Budget website:

<https://www.budget.gov.hk/2023/eng/index.html>

1. Policy Matching Exercise

Cover Letter	
British Chamber Ask / Proposal	Corresponding Proposal in the Policy Address
<p><u>Major proposal areas:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rebuilding the economy and enabling longer term structural change; Closer economic cooperation with the opportunities of the Mainland; Focusing on change in the public sector; Improving livelihoods in a more liveable city; and Ensuring that Hong Kong's distinctiveness is maintained and positively promoted. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reopening of international borders as soon as possible; More outreaching activities from the Government are encouraged; and Offering business sector support for future Government planning and investment priorities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to the initiatives mentioned in the Policy Address (listed below). 62. "We should also leverage our strengths under "One Country, Two Systems" and as an international financial centre to accelerate the development of Hong Kong into an international centre for green technology and finance... (e) enhancing the exchange and co-operation with the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) and international markets."
Rebuilding The Economy	
British Chamber Ask / Proposal	Corresponding Proposal in the Policy Address
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short-term measures (next 6-9 months) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare a mini-budget together with Policy Address to include measures to get the economy moving again (esp. to support small business sector as it recovers from 5th wave of the pandemic). <p>e.g. reach out to local and international business chambers to solicit proposals from the business sector for the mini-budget (for Financial Sec, Deputy Financial Sec and the Sec for Financial Services and the Treasury).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support schemes (particularly the ESS and the job creation schemes) need to be extended into 2023. For any future plans to distribute subsidies to such businesses, recommend discussing with representatives of the industries being targeted to ensure that practical issues get resolved at the planning stage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 45 - 46. "We will extend the Convention and Exhibition Industry Subsidy Scheme to 30 June 2023. A new \$1.4 billion scheme will be launched thereafter to subsidise more than 200 exhibitions to be staged in Hong Kong over three years. To consolidate Hong Kong's status as a premier venue for large-scale international C&E activities, we will take forward the AsiaWorld-Expo Phase 2 project, together with the Wan Chai North redevelopment project near the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, to substantially increase large-scale C&E spaces. To provide further support for SMEs, we will: raise the level of funding support – The cumulative funding ceiling per enterprise under the Dedicated Fund on Branding, Upgrading and Domestic Sales (the BUD Fund) will be raised from \$6 million to \$7 million. To assist SMEs in developing markets outside Hong Kong, the cumulative funding ceiling per enterprise under the SME Export Marketing Fund will be raised from \$0.8 million to \$1 million. The special

- **Rent deferral scheme and Loan guarantee scheme should be reviewed** to ensure its efficiency

- Give out **further consumption voucher** or similar schemes, together with continued or new subsidies to reduce the rent and tax burden in badly affected sectors. We realise that **rent or tax subsidies** are more controversial but as short-term measures, they also deserve consideration.

measure to expand its funding scope will also be extended to 30 June 2026 to continue to cover exhibitions and online exhibitions targeting the local market, and the eligibility criteria will be relaxed to cover non-SMEs”

- 119. “The Dedicated Fund on **Branding, Upgrading and Domestic Sales (BUD Fund)** has assisted enterprises in exploring markets outside Hong Kong and benefited more than 3 900 enterprises over the years. I propose to **further inject \$500 million into the fund** and, at the same time, launch “BUD Easy” to expedite the processing of applications, **enabling more SMEs to make use of the funding to develop their business**. In addition, the Hong Kong Productivity Council has been proactively **assisting SMEs in applying for government subsidies**, which is well received by the industry. I propose to **allocate \$100 million to enhance this service** in the next five years.”
- 28. “With the establishment of the Co-Investment Fund, the Government will consider co-investing in individual projects of the target enterprises, taking into account their potential to drive industry development in Hong Kong. In addition, we will set up the Advisory Committee on Attracting Strategic Enterprises, comprising representatives from relevant business sectors and social leaders, to advise the Financial Secretary on the overall strategy.”
- 41. “That said, it takes time for SMEs to consolidate their strengths on the way to recovery. I have, therefore, decided to **extend the application period of all guarantee products under the SFGS from end-June 2023 to end-March 2024**, thus giving SMEs more room to adjust and secure a firm footing.”
- 38. I will issue **electronic consumption vouchers again** this year **with a total value of \$5,000** to each eligible Hong Kong permanent resident and new arrival aged 18 or above in two instalments.
- 40. “(a) **reducing profits tax** for the year of assessment 2022/23 by 100 per cent, subject to a ceiling of \$6,000. The reduction will be reflected in the final tax payable for the year of assessment 2022/23. This measure will benefit 134 000 businesses and reduce government revenue by \$720 million;
(b) providing **rates concession for non-domestic properties for the first two quarters of 2023-24**, subject to a ceiling of \$1,000 per quarter for each rateable property.
(c) starting from July 2023, granting **50 per cent rental or fee concession to eligible tenants of government premises and eligible short-term**



	<p>tenancies and waivers under the Lands Department for six months until end-2023.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Government will also extend the Travel Agents Incentive Scheme, which is due to expire by end-March 2023, for three months, with a view to facilitating the speedy recovery of the industry.• 43. I will introduce the following one-off relief measures to alleviate the economic pressure on the public: (a) reducing salaries tax and tax under personal assessment for the year of assessment 2022/23 by 100 per cent, subject to a ceiling of \$6,000. The reduction will be reflected in the final tax payable for the year of assessment 2022/23. This measure will benefit 1.9 million taxpayers and reduce government revenue by \$8.5 billion;• 195. “Hence, I propose that profits tax and salaries tax rates should remain unchanged this year.”
<p>- Develop a clear programme (within 100 days of new Administration) to suggest how the infrastructure projects be financed jointly with private sector).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 55. “A department dedicated to the development of the Northern Metropolis will also be set up next year to steer various departments and co-ordinate their innovative efforts in pressing ahead with the development. Our target is to formulate a concrete plan and an action agenda for the Northern Metropolis within next year.”• 72. “To enhance transparency, the Steering Committee on Land and Housing Supply will formulate and regularly publish a 10-year forecast of supply of developable land. The first forecast will be released shortly. Similarly, the Task Force on Public Housing Projects will regularly publish a 10-year forecast of supply of public housing.”• 52. “Advanced and more comprehensive telecommunications infrastructure is an important cornerstone of our economic development. To encourage telecommunications network operators to more actively invest in infrastructure for providing better communication services to companies and the public, I propose to provide tax deduction for the spectrum utilisation fees to be paid by the future successful bidders of radio spectrum.”• 144. “Upon finalisation of a more detailed planning and design concept, the Government will contemplate appropriate financial arrangements for the artificial islands project, examine various financing options and their economic benefits, and explore the optimal package with the community.”• 216. “Infrastructure is one of the key areas for sustained economic development and improvement of people’s quality of life. I propose the setting up of an

	<p>Infrastructure Bond Scheme to enable us to better manage the cashflow needs of major infrastructure projects and facilitate the early completion of projects for the good of the economy and people’s livelihood, so that members of the public can enjoy the benefits early. Meanwhile, we will also explore public participation in bond subscription for our people to develop a “sense of participation” and a “sense of gain” in their support for Hong Kong’s long-term development projects. I will introduce the relevant proposals to the LegCo in 2023-24.”</p>
<p>- Initial supporting development expenditure should be set aside in the next full Budget early in 2023.</p>	
<p>- Hong Kong’s international borders should swiftly re-open with the minimum of inconvenience to travellers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 139 – 142. “the current-term Government has rolled out a series of precise and risk-based anti-epidemic measures in phases, gradually relaxing our control measures. These include cancelling the route-specific flight suspension mechanism, introducing the Red and Amber Codes for risk-based classification and management, changing the 7-day hotel quarantine arrangement to “3+4” and later “0+3”, and relaxing social distancing measures in phases. The “0+3” arrangement, implemented on 26 September, was a major change as it formally put an end to the inbound compulsory quarantine requirement which had been in place for more than two years. Where conditions permit, the Government will enhance various measures in a progressive way, including social distancing measures. We will also devise specific plans to ensure that major events and economic and large-scale activities in Hong Kong can be held smoothly. Resuming connections with the Mainland and the overseas is equally important for Hong Kong and must be pursued in tandem. We are making our best efforts to discuss with the Mainland to strive for resuming normal cross-boundary travel in a gradual and orderly manner, without posing additional epidemic risks to the Mainland. Our first target is to implement “reverse quarantine” in Hong Kong, also known as “pre-departure quarantine”. This arrangement will be designed to comply with the “7+3” standard of the Mainland, where Mainland-bound travellers will be put under closed-loop management after undergoing quarantine in Hong Kong... We have to closely monitor the epidemic situation outside Hong Kong, possible risks arising from winter influenza, development of virus variants, the capacity of local healthcare system, etc.”

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Devise a clear and firm roadmap for post-COVID environment for businesses to plan ahead/ for attracting talent. - In order to continue to retain and attract new regional headquarters, we would suggest consideration of the introduction of a more favourable tax regime for such regional operations that meet certain criteria in terms of tax relief and/ or tax holidays. This will help increase business volumes and attract/ retain talent and may also attract businesses from the broader ASEAN markets (and enable Hong Kong to fully capitalise on RCEP). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan of quarantine measures/ social distancing measures mentioned above. • 26. "establish the Talents Service Unit, led by the Chief Secretary for Administration, for formulating strategies to recruit talents from the Mainland and overseas and co-ordinating relevant work, as well as providing one-stop support for incoming talents;... set up Dedicated Teams for Attracting Businesses and Talents in the Mainland Offices and overseas Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) of the Government to proactively reach out to target enterprises and talents and persuade them to pursue development in Hong Kong;... launch the Top Talent Pass Scheme to widely entice talents to pursue their careers in Hong Kong; enhance existing talent admission schemes to better attract talents; and allow eligible incoming talents to, upon becoming permanent residents, apply for a refund of the extra stamp duty paid for purchasing residential property in Hong Kong." • 67. "Furthermore, the Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB) is currently updating the Talent List, for completion within next month, to better reflect the manpower demands of different professions. The LWB will also commence a new round of manpower projections in the middle of this year to help the Government formulate appropriate strategies to address the overall manpower demand."
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider enabling measures for attracting/ retaining talent e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Inward migration visas/ one way permit → Open city access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 29. "launch the Top Talent Pass Scheme for a period of two years; streamline the General Employment Policy (GEP) and the Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals (ASMTP); suspend the annual quota under the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme (QMAS) for a period of two years, and improve the approval process to attract more world-class talents to relocate to Hong Kong; ... extend the limit of stay of employment visas so that talents admitted under the existing and newly launched talent admission schemes and securing employment may be issued with an employment visa which will be valid for a maximum period of three years; • 30. "waive the requirement of applying for an employment visa for more visitors participating in short-term activities in Hong Kong." • 33. "the Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB) will launch a special scheme next year to allow the importation of care workers for residential care homes for the elderly (RCHE) and residential care homes for persons with disabilities on an appropriate scale, relax the ratio of care workers to be imported and streamline vetting procedures for applications, with a view to assisting the

→ ensure schools remain open on a permanent basis
→ focussed vocational training for older former workforce participants and young people to join workforce with critical skill shortage

sector in enhancing service quality.”

- 98. “Many sectors are now seeing a shortage of manpower. To encourage the public to enrol in training and enter the workforce, the Government will invite the Employees Retraining Board to **consider raising the daily rate of retraining allowance and providing allowances for half-day courses** for implementation by the first quarter of 2023.”
- 116. “- support post-secondary education and build a strong talent pool; **promote vocational and professional education and training (VPET) by adopting the strategy of fostering industry-institution collaboration** and diversified development, so as to nurture multi-skilled talents;”
- 122. “The first batch of programmes under the Pilot Project on the **Development of Applied Degree Programmes** have been launched in the current academic year, covering four disciplines: nursing; testing and certification; horticulture, arboriculture and landscape management; and gerontology. We are actively exploring the introduction of more applied degree programmes; expedite the development of Vocational Qualifications Pathway (VQP) – We will increase the number of industries adopting the VQP under the Qualifications Framework from 6 to at least 18 in the next five years;”
- 122. “launch the Diploma of Applied Education (DAE) Programme – The DAE Programme will be launched on a regular basis starting from the next academic year, incorporating substantial VPET elements and providing a **pathway for Secondary Six school leavers as well as adult learners to obtain a formal qualification**; enhance VPET promotion – We will organise an array of activities to enhance the public's positive understanding of VPET and promote its professional image, including supporting the Vocational Training Council to organise the "Future Skills Community Event" this December to make VPET an attractive progression pathway.”
- 173. “Vocational and professional education and training (VPET) has always been providing diversified and flexible education pathways for young people with different aspirations and abilities. Starting from the 2023/24 academic year, the Vocational Training Council will **launch a two-year pilot project enabling secondary school students to have an early exposure to VPET and helping them explore their interests**. The Government will **launch the Diploma of Applied Education Programme** on a regular basis in the same academic year in place of the existing Diploma Yi Jin Programme, and will continue to review

→ fiscal measures e.g. financial incentives for highly qualified individuals to relocate to Hong Kong
→ tax support for employers to bring in critical staff back in Hong Kong

the implementation of the Pilot Project on the Development of Applied Degree Programmes and proactively explore the launch of more programmes, so as to further enhance the VPET progression pathway at the post-secondary education level.”

- 29. “**refund the extra stamp duty paid by eligible incoming talents** in purchasing residential property in Hong Kong... explore expanding the arrangements to more categories”
- 120. “To attract more outstanding students along the Belt and Road to pursue their studies or career in Hong Kong, we will collaborate with institutions to **promote the Belt and Road Scholarship to countries outside the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)**. The subsidy levels of the Mainland University Study Subsidy Scheme will also be increased starting from the current academic year, with the **introduction of a new subsidy item for travelling expenses**, etc.”
- 122. “**expand the Study Subsidy Scheme for Designated Professions/ Sectors** – To meet the keen manpower demand of designated industries (e.g. nursing and information technology), the **respective numbers of subsidised places for self-financing higher diploma programmes and undergraduate programmes will be increased** in phases by 1 000 and 2 000 per cohort respectively starting from the next academic year, increasing the total **number of places from the existing 5 000 to 8 000**. Top-up degree programmes will be covered for the first time and priority will be accorded to programmes of applied nature that involve industry-institution collaboration;”
- 68. “With a view to further enriching the talent pool and attracting more new capital to Hong Kong, we will **introduce a new Capital Investment Entrant Scheme**. Applicants shall make investment at a certain amount in the local asset market, excluding property. Upon approval, they may reside and pursue development in Hong Kong.”

- Work to **attract back major sporting/ cultural events and major conferences** to Hong Kong as we emerge from the pandemic.

- 43. “We will **establish the Mega Arts and Cultural Events Fund to promote the staging of more international arts and cultural events** in Hong Kong, taking into account the views of the Mega Arts and Cultural Events Committee which will include industry personnel. The Government will foster arts and cultural exchanges and collaboration with the Mainland, including organising the GBA Culture and Arts Festival in 2024, as well as the annual Hong Kong Week and Chinese Opera Festival, etc. To promote Hong Kong's pop culture to go global, we will strive to expand the



industry's development capacity with three foci on film, TV and streaming platforms respectively. CreateHK will support collaboration between local and the Mainland/ Asian production teams for co-production of films and television variety programmes, as well as development of new content on streaming platforms by cross-sectoral production teams. The Government also plans to collaborate with industry practitioners to organise an annual Pop Culture Festival and explores the feasibility of setting up a Pop Culture Centre in the long term"

- 127. "To further promote the exchange of culture and arts in the GBA, Hong Kong will serve as the host city for the GBA Culture and Arts Festival in 2024, offering high-quality cultural and performing arts programmes from the area. I will **allocate \$20 million for hosting the festival**. It is expected that 5 000 Hong Kong and Mainland artists as well as other practitioners in the arts and cultural sector will participate in the festival, attracting an anticipated audience of 140 000 people.
- 45. "We will extend the Convention and Exhibition Industry Subsidy Scheme to 30 June 2023. A new \$1.4 billion scheme will be launched thereafter to subsidise more than 200 exhibitions to be staged in Hong Kong over three years. To consolidate Hong Kong's status as a premier venue for large-scale international C&E activities, we will take forward the AsiaWorld-Expo Phase 2 project, together with the Wan Chai North redevelopment project near the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, to substantially increase large-scale C&E spaces"
- 91. "In addition, we will enhance the Hong Kong "M" Mark System to support the hosting of at least 10 major international sports events in Hong Kong annually, with a view to further promoting Hong Kong as a centre for mega international sports events."
- 92. "Weekend Bazaars ... at five regions in the territory in the fourth quarter of 2022, fostering diversified local economic activities."
- 27. To enhance Hong Kong's international image, the Government will **earmark \$100 million for attracting more mega events with significant visitor appeal and tourism promotional effect to be staged in Hong Kong**. Besides, the Hong Kong **Tourism Board (HKTB) will spend over \$250 million to sustain its efforts in organising or helping promote major tourism events**, including the Hong Kong Pop Culture Festival to be held for the first time, the Hong Kong Wine and Dine Festival to be held in physical mode again for the first time since the epidemic, the Hong Kong International Dragon Boat Races, Hong Kong Cyclothon, Hong Kong Sevens and Arts Basel in Hong Kong, etc.

- 28. The Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) will **hold more than 10 major conferences and exhibitions in the coming months**. It is anticipated that these events will attract over 500 000 participants. Moreover, as this year marks the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road (B&R) Initiative, the Government will continue **to co-organise the annual B&R Summit** with the HKTDC to actively promote Hong Kong as a functional platform and a key link for the B&R Initiative.
- 29. The Government will allocate additional funding of about **\$200 million to the HKTB for stepping up its efforts in securing the staging of more international meetings, incentive travels, conventions and exhibitions (MICE)** of various scales and types in respect of finance, innovation and technology (I&T), medicine, etc. in Hong Kong, to attract high value-added visitors and consolidate Hong Kong's position as the premier MICE destination in the region.
- 31. On promoting Hong Kong, we should invite visitors to come here, and, at the same time, raise our city's profile around the world. The **Task Force on Promoting and Branding Hong Kong**, led by myself, comprises distinguished personalities from various sectors of society, with the aim of exploring novel ways to promote Hong Kong to the world. Government departments and related units will make concerted efforts to promote Hong Kong's new advantages under the direction of the task force. I will provide **a grant of \$50 million** for supporting the relevant work.
- 32. To bolster Hong Kong's economic and business advantages, the Government launched a **large-scale global promotional campaign themed "Hello Hong Kong"** in early February. The campaign aims to showcase and promote the city's new bright economic prospects, new cultural vision and new travel experience in a holistic manner, with a view to attracting as early as possible more business travellers and tourists from the Mainland and all over the world to visit Hong Kong.
- 33. The Airport Authority Hong Kong (AA) has announced that it would **give away free air tickets** while the HKTB is **handing out gift packs to inbound visitors**. Notwithstanding our status as a culinary capital and a shopping paradise, we also need to enhance promotion efforts while tourism is on the road to recovery. In this connection, the HKTB will distribute **"Hong Kong Goodies" to one million inbound visitors**, offering them shopping and dining privileges. In addition, the HKTB will **provide greater incentive to attract visits of international cruises**, with a view to facilitating the revival of the cruise industry and

	<p>consolidating Hong Kong's position as a major cruise port in the region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 34. We will soon launch the "Happy Hong Kong" Campaign for the general public, providing them opportunities to share happy and enjoyable moments together, thereby bringing more joy to the community. The campaign will focus on activities related to gourmet experiences, fun amusements and exciting ambience. Apart from providing members of the public with more diverse choices of fun and interesting activities in Hong Kong, it will also help stimulate local consumption and boost our economy. • 35. One of the major themes for this series of events is the launch of a "Gourmet Marketplace", under which large-scale food fairs will be organised in various locations across the territory in the coming months, bringing together Mainland, Hong Kong and overseas gourmet food, with a view to enabling the public and visitors enjoy the good food in the city. The Home and Youth Affairs Bureau will assist in co-ordinating the relevant events, details of which will be announced later. Another highlight is the organisation of a large-scale sea-land carnival by the HKTB in summer, with Victoria Harbour as the stage. Apart from a wide range of dancing, music and street performances presented by performing groups from around the world, a brand new lighting show will also be staged to offer a new experience to the public and visitors while they are enjoying the spectacular view of the harbour. • 36. "Additionally, in support of the Happy Hong Kong Campaign, organisations like the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority, Hong Kong Disneyland, Ocean Park Hong Kong, Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited (Cyberport) and Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTPC) will each hold themed fairs, carnivals or other activities this year."
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Apply more strategic focus on ports (airport and port) of Hong Kong to rebuild their competitiveness before end of 2022, for launch early in 2023. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 47. "To consolidate our status as an international shipping centre, we will implement tax concession measures to attract more high value-added maritime enterprises to establish presence in Hong Kong. We will also launch a Maritime Services Traineeship Scheme next year to provide traineeship for young people who aspire to a career in maritime law. We will actively promote the development of "smart port" to strengthen the competitiveness of our port by setting up a port community system to facilitate the flow and sharing of data among operators and other stakeholders." • 112. "... enhancing business sectors such as ship finance, marine insurance, maritime arbitration

	<p>and ship management, thereby enabling Hong Kong to become a global leading high-end maritime service market”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 106. “To support the recovery of air traffic, the Airport Authority Hong Kong (AA) is rolling out a series of measures, which include reducing or waiving airport charges, providing incentives to resume suspended flight services or launch new routes, organising large-scale promotion activities, etc. Meanwhile, the Government and the AA are examining the medium-to-long-term manpower shortage situation in the aviation industry, with a view to identifying solutions to the problem.” • 108. “A number of infrastructure projects of the HKIA will be successively completed and commissioned, including the SkyPier Terminal which will commence operation in the middle of this year and the entire Three-Runway System which is expected to be completed by the end of 2024. The HKIA will have its capacity substantially increased and its position as a regional multi-modal transportation hub further enhanced. The above developments will significantly boost passenger and cargo traffic of the HKIA, creating tremendous opportunities for activities such as aircraft repair and maintenance, aircraft parts manufacturing and relevant R&D. The AA is planning to construct a new aviation business park on the Airport Island, and is exploring with Zhuhai authorities the feasibility of building an aviation industrial park in Zhuhai, so as to promote the development of the aviation industry in the two places through synergised cross-boundary co-operation.”
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term measures 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of a strategic planning unit, to work on cross-bureau basis and with active involvement of private sector and think tanks. Aims to: 1) develop and help implement planning strategies to support longer term economic growth; - The Government review as a matter of urgency the competitiveness of all key strategic regulations that apply to businesses in Hong Kong, with a view to enhance the efficiency of the business community (and hence the economy more generally) whilst retaining the effectiveness of the regulations themselves. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20. “I will set up the Chief Executive's Policy Unit (CEPU) within this year to enhance our capabilities in research and advocacy on long-term and strategic issues. The CEPU should possess strategic and global perspectives and stay in tune with the local and public pulse, ...” • 21. “...The Secretaries of Departments and Deputy Secretaries of Departments have been taking an active role in co-ordinating work across bureaux and departments. Directors of Bureaux have also made strenuous efforts in offering constructive policy ideas and suggestions.”

2) prepare annual, medium and long-term investment and development frameworks for private/ public cooperation to develop local economy;

3) coordinate input to GBA and state-level special economic plans and initiatives to facilitate the Mainland's opening up to outside world;
4) formulate objectives on accelerating internationally open and highly competitive

- 19. "In respect of the governance system on government investments, I have asked the Financial Secretary to set up a new Hong Kong Investment Corporation Limited (HKIC) to further optimise the use of fiscal reserves for promoting the development of industries and the economy. The HKIC will consolidate the Hong Kong Growth Portfolio, the GBA Investment Fund and the Strategic Tech Fund established under the Future Fund in recent years, as well as the Co-Investment Fund mentioned in the ensuing sections. In pooling together relevant resources under the steer of the Government to invest in strategic industries, we aim to attract and support more enterprises to develop their business in Hong Kong."
- 65. "To further explore market opportunities, we will introduce a mechanism to **provide facilitation for companies domiciled overseas**, particularly enterprises with a business focus in the Asia-Pacific region, **for re-domiciliation to Hong Kong**, so that these companies may utilise our favourable business environment and professional services. We will conduct consultation and submit legislative proposals in 2023-24."
- 66. "The HKIC has commenced operation and is **identifying quality partners to make strategic investments** in a timely manner."
- 143. "We will start off by commencing consultation in the second quarter on the development proposals and land use planning of San Tin Technopole, the flagship I&T project in the region covering 150 hectares of new land for I&T uses. On another front, the first three buildings of the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park in the Lok Ma Chau Loop will be gradually completed from end-2024 onwards and the site formation works of the first batch of new land for I&T uses at San Tin Technopole will commence in the same year. **The additional space made available will facilitate the recruitment of Mainland and overseas I&T enterprises to establish a presence in Hong Kong.**"
- 20. "...while conducting in-depth studies and analyses on Mainland policies and developments as well as international trends and reporting the outcomes to me. It will also put in place a mechanism for regular internal deliberations to assist the Government in formulating forward-looking policies."
- 23. "...I have set about 110 various indicators (including key performance indicators (KPIs)), as listed in the Annex, for monitoring the progress and effectiveness for specified tasks and making timely improvements. I have

<p>modern economic system; and</p> <p>5) set major tasks and policies for Government bureaux.</p>	<p>also asked all policy bureaux and departments to set more indicators and report them to the LegCo.”</p>
<p>- Provide more and higher quality housing through better identification of land, faster planning approval and use of modern construction techniques.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 63. “introduce the new Light Public Housing (LPH), with about 30 000 units to be built in the coming five years; increase the overall public housing production substantially by about 50% in the coming five years (from 2023-24 to 2027-28) as compared to the previous five-year period (from 2022-23 to 2026-27), taking into account LPH and traditional PRH; cap the waiting time for PRH immediately. Taking into account the total supply of LPH and traditional PRH, the target is to cap the waiting time at the existing level of about 6 years and shorten it to about 4.5 years in four years' time (i.e. in 2026-27); deliver sufficient land for private housing development in the next five years to meet the projected demand in the LTHS and stabilise supply for private housing; compress land production procedures such that the time required for turning "primitive land" into "spade-ready sites" can be reduced by around one-third to half; expedite land production, build up a land reserve in the long run, and assume a leading role in land supply, so that the Government will stay on top of things instead of catching up with the demand. • 150. “For private housing, it is estimated that the completion of private residential units will average over 19 000 units annually in the five years from this year onwards. As at end-2022, the potential supply of first-hand private residential units for the next three to four years is expected to remain at a relatively high level of about 105 000 units.” • 156. “I have also earmarked \$30 million for conducting a study on the construction of the first advanced construction industry building at a site of about three hectares in Tsing Yi, carrying out planning and preliminary design work as well as advising on its mode of operation. The conceptual idea is to provide space for operators to set up steel reinforcement bar prefabrication yards, processing sites for Multi-trade Integrated Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing (MiMEP), and other advanced manufacturing yards in the multi-storey building.”
<p>- Move faster with digital transformation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 41. “- build a smart government – We aim to turn all government services online in two years and provide one-stop digital services by fully adopting "iAM Smart" within three years so as to realise "single portal for online government services". In addition, 100 digital government projects will be launched with the

application of technology for the convenience of the public; open up data – The Government will continue to actively open up data and encourage public and private organisations to follow suit for innovative industry applications. We will also explore with the Mainland the arrangements for the flow of data from the Mainland to Hong Kong, with a view to jointly promoting the co-ordinated development of smart cities in the GBA; and expand the 5G network – We will further expand the 5G network by amending the legislation next year to ensure that appropriate space is made available in new buildings for installation of mobile communication facilities.”

- 51. Developing into a smart city and a digital economy can help improve people’s quality of life. I will earmark a **sum of about \$200 million to enhance the operation of the “iAM Smart” platform**, so as to provide members of the public with more convenient one-stop digital services and improve user experience. The wider use of “iAM Smart” will further promote “Smart Government” and digital transformation of the whole society.
- 42. In addition, the Government will **inject \$30 million into the Information Technology Development Matching Fund Scheme for Travel Agents**, with the aim of encouraging the industry to undergo upgrade and transformation by making use of technology.
- 49. To speed up the process of digital economy development in Hong Kong, **the Digital Economy Development Committee**, chaired by me, is undertaking in-depth studies on four major areas to explore, namely, the **digital infrastructure** needed to promote the development of digital economy, **cross-boundary data transfer** in a convenient, efficient and secure manner, **digital transformation of enterprises** and **human resources support**.
- Digital Infrastructure:
[Artificial Intelligence Supercomputing Centre](#)
50. The availability of adequate computing infrastructure is a prerequisite for promoting the development of scientific research and artificial intelligence (AI) industries in Hong Kong. To this end, the Government will **conduct a feasibility study on the development of an AI Supercomputing Centre**. The study will be completed in 2023-24.
- 76. To further **enhance basic research in frontier technology fields such as AI and quantum technology** and to better realise our basic technology research capabilities in making breakthroughs out of the blue, I will **earmark \$3 billion to promote the**

	<p>development of relevant facilities, in particular, to leverage Hong Kong’s unique advantage as a platform for international scientific research collaboration and attract leading I&T talents, research teams and enterprises from the Mainland and overseas to Hong Kong, thereby promoting cross-sectoral research cooperation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Transformation: 53. Many local SMEs are actively seeking digital transformation for value creation of their business. To further expedite the pace of digital transformation of enterprises, I will set aside \$500 million for Cyberport to launch a Digital Transformation Support Pilot Programme, under which subsidies will be provided on a one-to-one matching basis to assist SMEs in applying ready-to-use basic digital solutions, thus facilitating their digitalisation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish itself as a centre for scaling voluntary carbon trading → develop concrete plans with appropriate regulatory framework. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 37. “We are also developing Hong Kong into an international carbon market, and will support the HKEX to continue pursuing co-operation with, among others, financial institutions in Guangzhou in carbon market development”
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue the “Connect” schemes, e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - expanding the stocks included in Shanghai and Shenzhen Stock Connect; - expanding scope to include primary offerings (IPO Connect). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 37. “promote mutual market access – We will speed up the implementation of a series of mutual market access arrangements supported by the China Securities Regulatory Commission earlier, including introducing a bill within this year to exempt the stamp duty payable for transactions conducted by dual-counter market makers, with a view to enhancing the RMB stock trading mechanism, as well as completing preparations for the launch of the Northbound Trading of Swap Connect as early as possible. We will also explore enhancements to the Southbound Trading of Bond Connect so as to facilitate the issuance and trading of more diverse "dim sum" bonds, and continue the discussion with the Mainland on proposals for the further expansion of mutual market access. Moreover, we will strive to establish insurance after-sales service centres in places such as Nansha and Qianhai in the near future to provide support services for residents in the GBA holding Hong Kong policies. This is also an important step towards mutual access of insurance markets in the GBA” • 85. “In the future, we will continue to explore with the Mainland various proposals on expansion of mutual market access and enhancement arrangements, such as enhancing the Cross-boundary Wealth Management Connect Scheme in the GBA, the Bond Connect, as well

	<p>as further expanding the scope of eligible securities under the Stock Connect. We will also contemplate the idea of providing more risk management products for investors outside of the Mainland, including to issue Mainland government bond futures in Hong Kong, thereby injecting new impetus into Hong Kong’s capital market in a sustainable manner.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 93. “We will continue to encourage more Mainland local governments at different levels as well as Mainland and overseas public and private institutions to issue offshore RMB bonds in Hong Kong.” • 102. “I propose a two-year extension of the Pilot ILS Grant Scheme to continue attracting more issuing institutions and nurturing talent, with a view to supporting industry development and assisting our country in expansion of channels for risk diversification and management.”
<p>- Measures to attract foreign issuers to list in Hong Kong</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26. “... establish the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES), led by the Financial Secretary, for attracting strategic enterprises from the Mainland and overseas by offering them special facilitation measures and one-stop services; ... set up Dedicated Teams for Attracting Businesses and Talents in the Mainland Offices and overseas Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) of the Government to proactively reach out to target enterprises and talents and persuade them to pursue development in Hong Kong; ... set aside \$30 billion from the Future Fund to establish the Co-Investment Fund for attracting enterprises to set up operations in Hong Kong and investing in their business;” • 27. “draw up a list of target enterprises and provide steer to the Dedicated Teams for Attracting Businesses and Talents to reach out to and carry out negotiations with the enterprises; formulate attractive special facilitation measures covering aspects such as land, tax and financing that are applicable exclusively to target enterprises, and provide them with tailor-made plans to facilitate the setting up of their operations in Hong Kong; and provide the employees of these target enterprises with one-stop facilitation services in areas such as visa application and education arrangement for their children.” • 37. “enhance our position as a global fundraising platform – The Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (HKEX) will revise the Main Board Listing Rules next year to facilitate fundraising of advanced technology enterprises that have yet to meet the profit and trading record requirements.”

<p>- Urgent review of the GEM market should be undertaken i.e. it should be repositioned as a market for much earlier stage companies with lighter regulatory regime.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 37. "It is also planning to revitalise GEM (formally known as the Growth Enterprise Market) to provide small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and start-ups with a more effective fundraising platform" • 89. "After consulting the market, the HKEX will introduce a listing regime for advanced technology companies in the first quarter of this year to expand the listing channel for issuers. The HKEX will also put forward specific reform recommendations on GEM within this year after carefully considering the views of various market players on the financing needs of SMEs and start-ups, and consult stakeholders." • 90. "HKEX will explore ways to further enhance the listing rules with the Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) in order to strike a balance between market development and regulatory needs, including relevant arrangement concerning share buy-backs by issuers. If the above recommendation is supported by the market, we will make necessary amendments to the Companies Ordinance"
<p>- Acceleration of work for development of a common Green and Sustainable Finance qualification framework, coupled with greater training on sustainability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 37. "develop green and sustainable finance – We will promote the development of Hong Kong as a premier financing platform for governments and green enterprises in the Mainland and around the world." • 59. "The Environment and Ecology Bureau (EEB) will work hand in hand with the agriculture and fisheries industry to formulate a blueprint for the sustainable development of agriculture and fisheries to promote the upgrading and transformation, modernisation and sustainable development of the industry. An array of measures covering finance, infrastructure, land and technical support will be rolled out in phases by the EEB to raise the quality and value of local produces, as well as the productivity of the industry." • 131. "In my last Budget, I proposed to make two separate injections of \$500 million into the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund and the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund. Upon approval of this funding proposal by the Finance Committee of the LegCo in December last year, the Environment and Ecology Bureau (EEB) has proposed a number of enhancements to suitably expand the coverage of the funds and further streamline the application procedures taking into account the views of the industry. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has also set up a task force to strengthen the support for interested applicants."



- 132. "Phase 1 of the Agricultural Park in Kwu Tung, **set up with \$830 million of Government funding**, has commenced operation in phases since late 2022. The industry has been conducting a consultancy study on the building design guidelines for multi-storey livestock farms with financial support of the Government. On fisheries, the AFCD plans to designate four new fish culture zones this year, to provide an additional development area of about 600 hectares. Besides, **several new deep sea cages with modern mariculture equipment will be provided** in phases for renting to fisheries associations, to lower their start-up costs. Fishermen associations may also apply to the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund for setting up and operating new deep sea cages to facilitate sustainable development in terms of intensification of production."
- 111. "The Council for Sustainable Development will be re-organised, becoming the new Council for Carbon Neutrality and Sustainable Development to offer advice on decarbonisation strategies."
- 62. "(a) **building a green technology ecosystem to attract top-notch enterprises or start-ups** to set up their operations, encourage efficient interaction among industry, academia and research sectors to commercialise R&D outcomes, and boost the demand for green technology through policy support;
(b) green finance application and innovation: **facilitating green projects to obtain capital more conveniently and flexibly** through financial innovations apart from traditional financing channels;
(c) **green certification and alignment with international standards**;
(d) **training for talents**"
- 63. I will **set up a Green Technology and Finance Development Committee**, inviting industry representatives from green technology, green finance and green standard certification, etc. to assist in the formulation of an action agenda for promoting the development of Hong Kong into an international green technology and finance centre. The Government will **organise an International GreenTech Week** at the end of this year to pool together representatives, enterprises and investors from the green technology industries around the world.
- 98. "For example, in recent years, the Exchange Fund has established alternative asset portfolios with dedicated allocation to smaller local managers. As a next step, such portfolios will cover also private equity funds managed by smaller local managers and those seeking to expand their Hong Kong operations in order to support their continued growth here. In addition, the

	<p>Exchange Fund will identify and increase allocation to funds that focus on sustainable investment to help consolidate Hong Kong’s position as the region’s leading sustainable finance platform.”</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop and modernise regulatory framework for crypto currencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 37. “On virtual assets, the Government has introduced a bill to propose establishing a statutory licensing regime for virtual asset service providers. The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) is examining market feedback on the regulation of stablecoins and will ensure that the regulatory regime is in line with both the international regulatory recommendations and the local context.” • 57. “For the next step, I will establish and lead a task force on VA development, with members from relevant policy bureaux, financial regulators and market participants, to provide recommendations on the sustainable and responsible development of the sector.”
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work to attract family offices, for example: → Consider more competitive tax concessions for family offices; → address struggles of privately offered funds investing in fixed income and credit strategies. - Measures should be included to continue to encourage strategic businesses and regional operations to be established/ retained in Hong Kong. In that regard, we would particularly mention family offices (which we are aware is a priority area for the Government and a focus of Invest HK) and where tax and residency considerations play a large role in determining decisions as to where to locate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 37. “The Government will introduce a bill within this year to offer tax concession for eligible family offices. The target is attracting no less than 200 family offices to establish or expand their operations in Hong Kong by end-2025. Moreover, we will implement a risk-based capital regime for the insurance industry in 2024 to align with international standards, and launch a public consultation within this year on the proposal of establishing a policy holders' protection scheme;” • 97. “Furthermore, we will allocate \$100 million to InvestHK over the next three years for attracting more family offices to Hong Kong. The Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau has set up a steering group to oversee key projects including the “Wealth for Good in Hong Kong” Summit in end-March, as well as providing dedicated training for relevant wealth management talents.” • 99. “Meanwhile, we will work with regulators to refine the regulatory measures and tax arrangements for the asset and wealth management sector. On wealth management, regulators will on a risk-based principle and subject to appropriate protection for investors, streamline the suitability assessment and disclosure process for sophisticated or ultra-high net worth individual clients. Moreover, the Government will review the existing tax concession measures applicable to funds and carried interest.”
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Position Hong Kong as the permanent secretariat for RCEP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 44. “We are actively pursuing accession to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) which covers 15 countries and a population of 2.2 billion and

accounts for nearly 30% of the global trade volume. Accession to RCEP will help enterprises reduce their operating costs and open up overseas markets, thereby strengthening and capitalising on Hong Kong's status as an international trade centre."

Closer Cooperation with the Mainland Economy

British Chamber Ask / Proposal

Corresponding Proposal in the Policy Address

Tax rules and regulations

- **Further align tax rules and regulations** with the policy objective of encouraging Hong Kong businesses to invest into and expand within the **GBA**, e.g.:
 - lobby Mainland authorities to allow the set-up of branches of Hong Kong entities in the GBA with a unified Hong Kong tax rate;
 - provide tax depreciation allowances on fixed asset investments located in the GBA and enhanced tax deductions to cover R&D activities undertaken there.

- 46. "capitalise on the opportunities in the Mainland – Guangdong ETO will set up a dedicated promotion centre to support the development of Hong Kong people and enterprises in the GBA. The HKTDC will also set up more "GoGBA Business Support Centres" to cover all nine Mainland cities in the GBA, and organise business missions, training, etc. in various Mainland provinces and municipalities"
- 40. "enhance existing technology talent schemes – We will enhance the TechTAS by lifting the local employment requirement, extending the quota validity period to two years and expanding the coverage to more emerging technology areas. In addition, we will increase the subsidies provided for research institutions and I&T enterprises for employing research talents under the Research Talent Hub Scheme by about 10%. Research talents with a doctoral degree will be further provided with a living allowance"

Labour mobility/ development of a broader living area for Hong Kong people in the GBA

- Provide enhanced **financial and other support for Hong Kong talent** working in the GBA **and for talent of other GBA cities** working in Hong Kong

- 29. "relax the Immigration Arrangements for Non-local Graduates (IANG) by extending the limit of stay from one year to two years to facilitate their staying in or coming to Hong Kong for work; and expand the scope of the arrangements to cover those who graduated from the GBA campus of a Hong Kong university on a pilot basis for a period of two years."
- 32. "The Government will expand the functions of Mainland Offices and overseas ETOs. A total of 17 offices will each set up a Dedicated Team for Attracting Businesses and Talents."
- 135. "The Government will regularise the GBA Youth Employment Scheme and encourage participating

	enterprises to recruit and deploy university graduates from Hong Kong to work in the GBA. Besides, we will continue to provide the young people of Hong Kong with entrepreneurial support and incubation services in the GBA through two funding schemes under the Youth Development Fund, helping them to address initial capital needs for their business.”
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance recognition of more Hong Kong qualifications, e.g. in the legal, construction and insurance sectors, broadening out the current CEPA process 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance the existing China IIT treatment for Hong Kong people working in the GBA 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance the GBA Youth Employment Scheme to allow flexibility for employment contracting arrangements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40. “enhance existing technology talent schemes – We will enhance the TechTAS by lifting the local employment requirement, extending the quota validity period to two years and expanding the coverage to more emerging technology areas. In addition, we will increase the subsidies provided for research institutions and I&T enterprises for employing research talents under the Research Talent Hub Scheme by about 10%. Research talents with a doctoral degree will be further provided with a living allowance;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish an employment matching programme for local STEM graduates with potential employers in Hong Kong and the GBA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40. “expand the STEM Internship Scheme – We will offer local I&T internship opportunities to university students studying STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) programmes overseas or at GBA campuses established by designated local universities.”
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allowance of payment of dependent parent and grandparent allowances even when individuals are residing in the GBA 	
Healthcare	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further extend tax incentives for the purchase of private life and health insurance for both Hong Kong residents and our citizens living the GBA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 88. “In addition, we will study the feasibility of allowing Hong Kong people living in the Mainland cities of the GBA to make use of the Elderly Health Care Vouchers for settling payments of Mainland medical insurance premiums. (insurance)”

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of GBA cities and designated healthcare institutions covered by the Hong Kong policy to meet urgent clinical needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 37. "Moreover, we will strive to establish insurance after-sales service centres in places such as Nansha and Qianhai in the near future to provide support services for residents in the GBA holding Hong Kong policies. This is also an important step towards mutual access of insurance markets in the GBA;" • 83. "strengthen hospital infrastructure – We will press ahead with the First Ten-year Hospital Development Plan (HDP), adding about 4 600 beds and about 80 operating theatres in the next five years. The Second Ten-year HDP will include the development of a hospital network in the Northern Metropolis" • 88. "To foster medical co-operation between Hong Kong and the Mainland, we will make reference to the registration approvals made by the National Medical Products Administration and other suitable drug regulatory authorities, allowing pharmaceutical products registered in the Mainland and relevant places to be registered and sold in Hong Kong upon fulfilment of the relevant stringent requirements on safety, efficacy and quality, thereby diversifying the supply of pharmaceutical products. We will also maintain liaison with the Mainland on allowing more Hong Kong-registered drugs and medical devices to be used in the GBA. In addition, we will study the feasibility of allowing Hong Kong people living in the Mainland cities of the GBA to make use of the Elderly Health Care Vouchers for settling payments of Mainland medical insurance premiums."
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More transparency in the Government's collaboration and communication with the Guangdong Provincial Medical Products Administration (GDMPA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 88. "To foster medical co-operation between Hong Kong and the Mainland, we will make reference to the registration approvals made by the National Medical Products Administration and other suitable drug regulatory authorities"
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More proactive approach in information sharing for GBA healthcare policies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 41. "open up data – The Government will continue to actively open up data and encourage public and private organisations to follow suit for innovative industry applications. We will also explore with the Mainland the arrangements for the flow of data from the Mainland to Hong Kong, with a view to jointly promoting the co-ordinated development of smart cities in the GBA"
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate medical insurance (including private insurance and voluntary health insurance scheme) to cover Hong Kong citizens resident in the GBA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 88. "In addition, we will study the feasibility of allowing Hong Kong people living in the Mainland cities of the GBA to make use of the Elderly Health Care Vouchers for settling payments of Mainland medical insurance premiums. (insurance)"

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a clear code of practice and medical indemnity coverage for healthcare professionals practicing across the border 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 82. "establish the Primary Healthcare Authority for co-ordination and governance of primary healthcare service provision across the public and private sectors. It will also be responsible for setting standards and devising quality assurance mechanisms"
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand the use of Hong Kong drugs and medical devices in the Greater Bay Area and make these available under approved and transparent guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 88. "To foster medical co-operation between Hong Kong and the Mainland, we will make reference to the registration approvals made by the National Medical Products Administration and other suitable drug regulatory authorities, allowing pharmaceutical products registered in the Mainland and relevant places to be registered and sold in Hong Kong upon fulfilment of the relevant stringent requirements on safety, efficacy and quality, thereby diversifying the supply of pharmaceutical products. We will also maintain liaison with the Mainland on allowing more Hong Kong-registered drugs and medical devices to be used in the GBA."
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend electronic health record sharing systems to cover top tier hospitals in the GBA to ensure continuity of care across the border for Hong Kong citizens (with patients' consent) 	
Construction and Infrastructure	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote Hong Kong as the arbitration centre for construction disputes, i.e.: → a wider range of qualifications to be mutually recognised to help with the movement of specialist expertise across the boundary and for the GBA to serve as an MiC manufacturing hub 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private capital should be utilised in PPP projects as part of the development of the Northern Metropolis as a way of more closely linking the Hong Kong and Mainland economies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 63. "make use of market forces by enhancing public-private partnership. A pilot scheme will be introduced to encourage the participation of private developers in building subsidised sale flats"
Free movement of Goods, People, Capital and Data across boundaries	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further digitalisation and alignment of processes and systems between Hong Kong and GBA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 36. "formulating strategic plans for Hong Kong to dovetail with the 14th Five-Year Plan and the GBA development, and proactively forging ahead with development and collaboration; ...strengthening regional co-operation mechanisms with Mainland provinces and municipalities, and monitoring the progress and effectiveness of the implementation

	<p>of collaborative projects”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 48. “The Government will also upgrade the infrastructure of land boundary control points (BCPs), including rationalising the land BCPs and clearance arrangement under the "East in East out, West in West out" strategy for cross-boundary goods movement, and adopting co-location arrangement and collaborative inspection and joint clearance mode for planning the redevelopment of the Sha Tau Kok Port, Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Rail Link and bifurcation of the Northern Link.” 42. “On the basis of "one zone, two parks" and through in-depth co-operation with Shenzhen, we will study the trial implementation of a cross-boundary policy on I&T co-operation in an innovative, exclusive and designated manner, covering the flows of I&T material, capital, data and people between Hong Kong and Shenzhen.”
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incentives to encourage businesses to move to the GBA, i.e. Communications, logistics, transportation links across the boundary are keys to success. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 49. “reinforcing intermodal transport by integrating air, sea and land transport to strengthen the key role played by Hong Kong in the logistics chain of the GBA” 50. “With the Third Runway commencing operation in July 2022, the Three Runway System is expected to be completed in 2024 and will substantially increase the overall capacity and competitiveness of the airport. The AAHK is also actively taking forward various projects and applying the intermodal transport mode to enhance connectivity between the airport and the GBA cities. For instance, the commissioning of the SkyPier Terminal next year will provide direct transfer facilities for passengers from the GBA to streamline immigration formalities.”
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roadmap for careful opening needs to be quickly developed in coming months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 36. “The Government will establish the Steering Group on Integration into National Development to be chaired by the Chief Executive, with three Secretaries of Departments (i.e. the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Financial Secretary and the Secretary for Justice) as deputies. The Steering Group will press ahead with initiatives across bureaux and provide steer from a strategic and macro perspective, enhance communications with Mainland authorities and regularly host briefing sessions on national policies... formulating work plans and priorities with a view to fostering a greater flow of people, goods, capital and information within the GBA;”

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further development of additional 'Connect' schemes is important to facilitate cross-border capital movement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 36. "proactively promoting high-quality development of co-operation between Hong Kong and the Belt and Road countries in trade and commerce, professional services and cultural exchanges, and formulating relevant measures"
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find pathway for companies and institutions to navigate this complex environment under restrictions on transfer of personal data across boundaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 42. "On the basis of "one zone, two parks" and through in-depth co-operation with Shenzhen, we will study the trial implementation of a cross-boundary policy on I&T co-operation in an innovative, exclusive and designated manner, covering the flows of I&T material, capital, data and people between Hong Kong and Shenzhen."
<p>Change in the Public Sector</p>	
<p>British Chamber Ask / Proposal</p>	<p>Corresponding Proposal in the Policy Address</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen the outreach programme on policy development and service delivery with local and international business Chambers for all Government bureaux and statutory authorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13. "To ensure the faithful adherence to the legislative intent of the National Security Law, we will further strengthen the legal system and enforcement mechanisms for safeguarding national security by pressing ahead with the preparatory work for the enactment of legislation to implement Article 23 of the Basic Law, legislating for the regulation of online and offline crowdfunding activities, making laws for enhancing cybersecurity of critical infrastructure, completing the consultancy study on addressing the issue of false information for policy consideration, etc." • 56. "We will gradually open up Sha Tau Kok (excluding Chung Ying Street) in 2024 for cultural and eco-tourism activities and will consult the local community early next year" • 87. "Our tobacco control efforts will continue, even though the smoking prevalence in Hong Kong reached an all-time low of 9.5% last year. We will consult the public early next year on the next steps for tobacco control."
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early create a properly funded and vested Port Authority for Hong Kong 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use existing legal measures such as land resumptions, land swaps and other development tools to clear barriers to the development of a more effective land bank 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 56. "We will take forward in full swing major projects that have commenced in Kwu Tung North/Fanling North, Hung Shui Kiu/Ha Tsuen, Yuen Long South, etc. Planning for the majority of other development projects, including San Tin Technopole, has already commenced. Our target is to commence land resumption procedures for all development projects within five years, and to form 40% of the new development land and complete

	<p>40% of the new flats within 10 years; increase development intensity – We will make the best use of the land resources in the Northern Metropolis by adopting higher plot ratios. As a guideline, the maximum plot ratio for residential sites will be 6.5 (higher than that of 5 for earlier generations of new towns like Sha Tin), while that for commercial sites will be 9.5”</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexibility needed for development procedures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 71. “streamline statutory procedures – We will streamline various procedures with respect to planning, environmental impact assessment (EIA), land resumption and infrastructure through the introduction of a bill to amend the Town Planning Ordinance, the Land Resumption Ordinance, the Foreshore and Sea-bed (Reclamations) Ordinance, the Roads (Works, Use and Compensation) Ordinance and the Railways Ordinance, as well as amendment to the Schedules to the EIA Ordinance within this year. For projects other than large-scale ones, the time required for turning "primitive land" into "spade-ready sites" for housing development will be reduced from at least 6 years to 4 years, while the time required for large-scale projects will be substantially reduced from 13 years to 7 years, of which the time for the EIA process will be compressed to within 18 to 24 months. We will also open up the environmental baseline data next year to enhance the efficiency of the EIA process;” • “further streamline administrative procedures – We will review key topics including the gross floor area (GFA) concession arrangement for carparks, approval guidelines concerning developments in the wetland buffer area, self-certification and independent checking arrangement, as well as procedures concerning the felling and compensatory planting of trees. We aim to put forward concrete proposals progressively starting from mid-2023” • “expedite the approval of building plans – The Buildings Department will establish Dedicated Processing Units adopting a "facilitator" mindset to expedite the approval process of general building plans submitted for high-yield private residential projects. The target is to approve about 80% of the plans on their first or second submission. In addition, we will devise a roadmap on the industry's use of Building Information Modelling (BIM) in preparing building plans for submission to departments for approval. An application software will be launched in the first quarter of 2024 to automate compliance checks by the industry on the floor area information in relevant plans”

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “extend the arrangement for charging land premium at standard rates – We will regularise the arrangement for charging land premium at standard rates for redevelopment of industrial buildings. We will also extend this approach, now applicable only to the redevelopment of industrial buildings and in-situ land exchange applications in NDAs, to cover agricultural land in the New Territories located outside NDAs to compress relevant workflow. We target to present a concrete plan by mid-2023;” • “speed up the consolidation of property interests to facilitate urban renewal of old areas – We propose lowering the compulsory sale application thresholds for private buildings aged 50 or above but below 70 from 80% to 70% of ownership, and further to 60% for those aged 70 or above. For industrial buildings in non-industrial zoning, the threshold will be lowered to 70% of ownership for those aged 30 years or above. We will also relax the requirements on compulsory sale applications covering abutting lots, streamline the legal procedures for compulsory sale, and set up a dedicated office to provide additional support to affected minority owners. We will consult the LegCo and stakeholders on the proposals within this year”
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilisation of brownfield sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 69. “While speeding up the resumption of brownfield sites for development, the Government will cater to the needs of the affected, such as squatter occupants and brownfield operators. For example, we plan to make available land in Yuen Long and Hung Shui Kiu for development of multi-storey industrial buildings from next year, with lease conditions requiring a certain portion of floor area to be set aside for leasing to the affected brownfield operators below market rent.”
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritise use of Design for Manufacture and Assembly (DfMA) as a proactive design approach, together with Modular Integrated Construction (MiC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 57. “In the next few years, the Government's annual capital works expenditure will exceed \$100 billion. The DEVB will establish a cross-departmental steering committee for co-ordinating the development of high productivity construction methods such as Modular Integrated Construction (MiC) and the streamlining of related approval processes to remove barriers for the industry. The steering committee will formulate measures next year to strengthen the MiC supply chain, including making available land in the Northern Metropolis for manufacturing and storage of modules by the industry, and fostering collaboration with the GBA. In addition to expediting housing supply, these measures will strengthen the leading regional position of Hong Kong's construction industry in the adoption of MiC.”

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 64. "The Government will make use of government and private land with no development plan in the near future, and adopt standardised simple design and the MiC approach to build LPH units expeditiously; enhance speed by adopting the MiC approach – We suggest that the HKHA require all public housing projects scheduled for completion in the first five-year period to adopt the Design for Manufacture and Assembly (DfMA) approach, with the adoption of the MiC approach in suitable projects. In the second five-year period, no less than 50% of the projects will adopt the MiC approach. HKHS will also adopt the MiC approach in more public housing projects" 155. "I have earmarked \$30 million for the Development Bureau (DEVB) to conduct a study on establishing the Building Testing and Research Institute and to carry out related planning and preliminary design. Apart from R&D activities for innovative materials, construction methods and technologies, the centre will also devise standards, conduct testing and provide accreditation to spearhead innovation in the construction industry and attract R&D talent to Hong Kong. The centre will also capitalise on Hong Kong's unique advantages to provide a platform for our country's construction standards and related products to align with those in the international market." 157. "To implement the new initiatives announced in the 2022 Policy Address, I have earmarked \$15 million for studying and putting in place measures to strengthen the supply chain of the Modular Integrated Construction (MiC) modules. The scope of study will cover areas such as the manufacturing, transportation, storage and accreditation of MiC modules. We will also explore the provision of manufacturing and storage sites in the Northern Metropolis, and ways to enhance collaboration with the GBA and optimise the MiC supply chain."
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security of payments by Government for the construction sector, i.e.: → draft Construction Industry Security of Payment Bill be released for public consultation and placed before LegCo and promulgated as soon as possible. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streamline and remove red tape for applying and processing Government grants for SMEs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 46. "The cumulative funding ceiling per enterprise under the Dedicated Fund on Branding, Upgrading and Domestic Sales (the BUD Fund) will be raised from \$6 million to \$7 million. To assist SMEs in developing markets outside Hong Kong, the cumulative funding ceiling per enterprise under the SME Export Marketing

	<p>Fund will be raised from \$0.8 million to \$1 million. The special measure to expand its funding scope will also be extended to 30 June 2026 to continue to cover exhibitions and online exhibitions targeting the local market, and the eligibility criteria will be relaxed to cover non-SMEs;"</p> <p>Other arrangements for SMEs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 46. "extend the principal payment holiday arrangement – The Pre-approved Principal Payment Holiday Scheme will be extended for another six months to 31 July 2023, through the Banking Sector SME Lending Coordination Mechanism of the HKMA, and the principal repayment option will be enhanced to prepare for the eventual normal principal repayment by enterprises in future. Relevant arrangements will also be applicable to loans under the SME Financing Guarantee Scheme; and" • 46. "extend concessions of government fees and charges – We will continue to reduce 75% of water and sewage charges for non-domestic accounts for eight months from 1 December 2022 to 31 July 2023, subject to a monthly ceiling of \$20,000 and \$12,500 respectively per household. We will also continue to provide 75% rental or fee concessions currently applicable to eligible tenants of government premises and eligible short-term tenancies and waivers under the Lands Department for six months from 1 January 2023 to 30 June 2023."
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host Government sponsored forums to exchange latest health developments and demand in both the public and private sectors 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fast track citizen-centric smart city digital implementation innovations in the transportation, healthcare and construction sectors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 49. "encouraging a wider application of smart logistics solutions by the logistics trade to enhance competitiveness through technology." • 109. "Under the development strategy of the Airport City, the HKIA is also actively taking forward the integrated commercial development project of SKYCITY. Moreover, logistics infrastructure will be strengthened to further expand the business of high-value goods and e-commerce. With its advantages in terms of geography, infrastructure and transportation, the site will be developed into a vibrant hub of commerce, conventions and exhibitions, tourism, lifestyle and logistics." • 47. "We will actively promote the development of "smart port" to strengthen the competitiveness of our port by setting up a port community system to facilitate the flow

	<p>and sharing of data among operators and other stakeholders.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 113. “We will continue to take forward smart mobility initiatives by applying advanced technologies in our traffic and transport systems. These include improving the Traffic Data Analytics System and exploring the feasibility of introducing smart motorways. We will complete a territory-wide Travel Characteristics Survey under the Traffic and Transport Strategy Study next year, and take forward various pilot schemes such as the trial of autonomous vehicles within 2024. Our target is to promulgate a Transport Strategy Blueprint in 2025, with a view to establishing a reliable, safe, smart, environmentally friendly and highly efficient transport system.” • 79. To tie in with the policy of developing smart city and digital economy, I will earmark \$265 million for Cyberport to launch a dedicated incubation programme for smart living start-ups, under which a maximum grant of \$500,000 as well as targeted professional support and counselling will be provided. It is anticipated that about 90 eligible start-ups will benefit from the programme in each of the next five years.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater use of open data and data platforms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 41. “The Government will continue to actively open up data and encourage public and private organisations to follow suit for innovative industry applications. We will also explore with the Mainland the arrangements for the flow of data from the Mainland to Hong Kong, with a view to jointly promoting the co-ordinated development of smart cities in the GBA;” • 101. “The Commercial Data Interchange (CDI) was launched in October 2022, with over 1 000 loans totalling more than \$1.9 billion having been granted to SMEs by participating banks as at end of 2022. It is expected that the CDI will be linked to the Consented Data Exchange Gateway developed by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer at the end of this year, thus allowing financial institutions to obtain relevant data after receipt of their clients’ authorisation, thereby enhancing the efficiency of providing financial services”
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further improvement in the way Government offers businesses digital services required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 41. “We aim to turn all government services online in two years and provide one-stop digital services by fully adopting “iAM Smart” within three years so as to realise “single portal for online government services”. In addition, 100 digital government projects will be

	launched with the application of technology for the convenience of the public;”
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPP models and financing options relating to the Northern Metropolis and other infrastructure projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 63. “- make use of market forces by enhancing public-private partnership. A pilot scheme will be introduced to encourage the participation of private developers in building subsidised sale flats; and” • 64. “- enhance public-private partnership – We will introduce a new Pilot Scheme on Private Developer Participation in Subsidised Housing Development. From the next financial year, three sites will be put up for tender in batches for developers to build subsidised sale flats which will be sold to eligible persons at a specified discount rate from the market price. Under the pilot scheme, developers are also encouraged to apply for rezoning of their own private land for subsidised sale flat development; and” • 153. “The Government adopts the “infrastructure-led” and “capacity-creating” planning principles in taking forward transport infrastructure projects, with a view to unleashing the development potential of areas along transport corridors and meeting transport and logistics demand arising from long-term development in a forward-looking manner while fostering better connectivity with other GBA cities. According to the preliminary recommendations in the Strategic Studies on Railways and Major Roads beyond 2030, the Government plans to build three strategic railways and three major roads. In order to formulate Hong Kong’s future Major Transport Infrastructure Development Blueprint in the fourth quarter of this year, the Government is now consulting the public for their views on the above recommendations.”
Improving Livelihoods in a More Liveable City	
British Chamber Ask / Proposal	
Improving liveability	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redesign the use of public space for pedestrians, implement better traffic management and parking enforcement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 73. “To optimise Hong Kong's overall transport network, new rail links and a road transport network will be constructed to connect with Hong Kong Island West, Lantau Island and Northwest New Territories; a fourth cross-harbour tunnel will also be built” • 74. “The Kau Yi Chau Artificial Islands have three major planning objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • - prosperity and diversity – They will support the development of the third central business district to

	<p>consolidate Hong Kong's position as an international financial centre. We will also reserve land outside the central business district for emerging industries to provide diversified opportunities for young people;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - green and liveable – Based on the recommendations of the Hong Kong 2030+, we will enhance accommodation and living space by increasing the average flat size of public and private housing by a range of 10% to 20% as the assumption when planning land development, as well as raising the ratios of land for open space and land for community facilities to population to no less than 3.5 square metres per person;” 75 – 78: “We will put forth proposals on the scope of reclamation, land use, transport infrastructure network and financing options regarding the Artificial Islands within this year. ... “bringing forward infrastructure construction and increasing development capacity”, as mentioned in my election manifesto, by taking forward the three major road projects and three strategic railway projects recommended in the Strategic Studies on Railways and Major Roads beyond 2030. The projects will bring about a highly inter-connected and accessible road network and rail system, and vigorously drive and support future development of Hong Kong... We will continue to take forward other railway projects in the Northern Metropolis... Railway projects in other areas are also progressing well, with the construction works of the Tung Chung Line Extension, Oyster Bay Station and Tuen Mun South Extension commencing next year. We will also expedite the implementation of a number of road infrastructure projects under planning, including Route 11, Tsing Yi-Lantau Link and Tuen Mun Bypass, as well as improvements to Lion Rock Tunnel.” 113. “We will continue to take forward smart mobility initiatives by applying advanced technologies in our traffic and transport systems. These include improving the Traffic Data Analytics System and exploring the feasibility of introducing smart motorways. We will complete a territory-wide Travel Characteristics Survey under the Traffic and Transport Strategy Study next year, and take forward various pilot schemes such as the trial of autonomous vehicles within 2024. Our target is to promulgate a Transport Strategy Blueprint in 2025, with a view to establishing a reliable, safe, smart, environmentally friendly and highly efficient transport system.”
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address challenges on data sharing or taxi regulatory reform; real time data should be 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 41. “The Government will continue to actively open up data and encourage public and private organisations to follow suit for innovative industry applications.”

<p>available for border/ harbour crossings and key roads with traffic updates</p>	
<p>A More Sustainable City</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish detailed assessments on projected impacts of global warming, e.g.: → stormwater drainage/ coastal and riverine flooding/ landslips/ projected windspeeds in case of stronger typhoons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 109. "To ameliorate the near-shore odour problems of Victoria Harbour, we will regularly monitor odour levels at stormwater drain outlets and rectify misconnections of sewer pipes. For the identified outfalls emanating stench in specific districts, we aim to reduce the amount of sewage discharged by half before end-2024." • 112. "To strengthen collaboration among Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao in combating climate change as well as joint prevention and control of air pollution in the GBA, the Government is preparing to set up a supersite for GBA air quality laboratory and meteorology monitoring in Hong Kong to provide regional air pollution and meteorological monitoring and forecasting services."
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale up of technical trials for electric Public Light Buses (PLB) and e-Taxis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 110. "promote green transport – The Government will cease new registration of fuel-propelled and hybrid private cars in 2035 or earlier. In the coming three years, an additional 7 000 parking spaces with electric vehicle chargers will be provided in government premises. To expedite low-carbon transformation in the transport sector, we will conduct trials of new generation electric taxis, as well as hydrogen fuel cell electric double-deckers and heavy vehicles next year. Moreover, we aim to complete two tasks by 2025, which include announcing a roadmap for the promotion of electric public transport and commercial vehicles; and formulating the long-term strategies for the application of hydrogen energy in road transport. We will also introduce about 700 electric buses and 3 000 electric taxis by end-2027;" • 160. "The Government has set the target of introducing about 700 electric buses and 3 000 electric taxis by end-2027. We will earmark \$200 million under the New Energy Transport Fund for progressively commencing trials of hydrogen fuel cell electric double-deck buses and heavy vehicles within this year in collaboration with franchised bus companies and other stakeholders to fully assess their operational feasibility under local circumstances." • 161. Moreover, the Government will put in place a loan scheme with 100% guarantee for the taxi trade as an incentive for taxi owners to replace their existing taxis with battery electric taxis. It is estimated that the proposed measure will involve a loan

	<p>guarantee of about \$6.4 billion. The details of the scheme will be announced in due course.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examine synergies between transport modes and charging infrastructure, e.g.: → fast chargers for both PLBs and taxis/ franchised buses/ last mile delivery vehicles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 110. "In the coming three years, an additional 7 000 parking spaces with electric vehicle chargers will be provided in government premises."
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progressively introduce zero emission zones to support a market-driven solution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 112. "(b) facilitating transformation of global maritime and port business towards zero emission;"
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broaden scope of Green Transport Fund to cover non-road vehicles, heavy vehicles and construction plant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 110. "promote green transport – The Government will cease new registration of fuel-propelled and hybrid private cars in 2035 or earlier. In the coming three years, an additional 7 000 parking spaces with electric vehicle chargers will be provided in government premises. To expedite low-carbon transformation in the transport sector, we will conduct trials of new generation electric taxis, as well as hydrogen fuel cell electric double-deckers and heavy vehicles next year."
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upscale use of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) e.g.: → financial incentives to private sector and funding for R&D in SAF production; → assisting businesses to reduce scope 3 emissions 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restructure construction and development contracts to factor in ESG elements and lifecycle carbon assessments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 74. "forward-looking and innovative – We will fully implement the strategy of a smart, green and resilient city by formulating measures in urban design, infrastructure and mobility to reduce everyday energy demand; we will also reduce carbon emissions through the adoption of green energy and advanced food waste treatment technology." 162. "Food waste accounts for 30 per cent of municipal solid waste disposed of at landfills. In 2023-24, we will allocate an additional funding of \$62 million to gradually expand the scope of food waste collection to cover more public and private premises, including food establishments, markets, hotels, large shopping malls, etc. The food waste collection trial scheme for public rental housing estates will also be extended to cover a total of 100 blocks, involving about 150 000 residents. Through these measures, we can not only reduce the volume of odorous food waste disposed of at landfills, but also

	<p>deliver the food waste to the Organic Resources Recovery Centre for conversion into renewable energy.”</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retrofit solutions for ageing buildings • In order to encourage low carbon refurbishment and/ or sustainable redevelopment of existing and older buildings, in particular for residential use, additional incentives should be provided and where appropriate a mechanism should be introduced whereby such older buildings when retrofitted to a certain standard could be mortgageable 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revamp procedures: → for allowing brown sites to be used; → for re-use of old building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 69. “We also strive to redevelop brownfield sites...”
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green infrastructure financing to be used for major investment projects e.g. Northern Metropolis, Reclamation in Central Waters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 37. “- develop green and sustainable finance – We will promote the development of Hong Kong as a premier financing platform for governments and green enterprises in the Mainland and around the world. We are also developing Hong Kong into an international carbon market, and will support the HKEX to continue pursuing co-operation with, among others, financial institutions in Guangzhou in carbon market development;”
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance sorting and treatment of both municipal and construction waste with automated and robotic sorting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 110. “To achieve the goal of Zero Landfill by 2035, we will strive to engage the entire community in reduction and waste separation for recycling. In addition, we will expedite the development of modern waste-to-energy (WtE) incinerators. Apart from actively preparing for the implementation of municipal solid waste charging next year at the earliest, we will launch a host of new initiatives. First, we will introduce a bill into the LegCo early next year to regulate disposable plastic tableware and other plastic products. Second, we will explore legislation requiring major housing estates and single-block buildings with a relatively large number of flats to collect separated recyclables and pass them to recyclers for processing. Third, we will build the first modern WtE incinerator near Shek Kwu Chau at full speed and plan the development of the second one in Tsang Tsui, Tuen Mun. We will also study developing more similar advanced facilities in the Northern Metropolis.”
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage more local food production 	

Improving Healthcare

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consolidating anonymised patient generated data and shared with public and private hospitals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 82. "promote eHealth – We will explore mandating the upload of more types of health records by legislation, with a view to further transforming eHealth into a key infrastructure integrating public and private healthcare systems."
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hospital Authority and HKSTP to expedite collaboration on sharing real-world data to empower R&D and health technology development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mentioned above.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieve and retain Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HMISS) level 7 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote use in standardised format/ content for disease registry in both HK/ GBA 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support using IoT medical devices in home settings for measuring and monitoring health conditions of patients, i.e.: → Support robotics for self-care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 83. "improve patient experience – The HA will provide more convenience for patients by making wider use of telehealth services and introducing a new service model for drug collection and delivery;"
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend policy and regulatory support for telemedicine to further enable remote consultations; Encourage E-prescription and delivery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mentioned above.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Real world evidence in new drug registration, approval and reimbursement; Adoption of new and proven methodologies for drug approval and evaluation e.g. CPP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 88. "To foster medical co-operation between Hong Kong and the Mainland, we will make reference to the registration approvals made by the National Medical Products Administration and other suitable drug regulatory authorities, allowing pharmaceutical products registered in the Mainland and relevant places to be registered and sold in Hong Kong upon fulfilment of the relevant stringent requirements on safety, efficacy and quality, thereby diversifying the supply of pharmaceutical products. We will also maintain liaison with the Mainland on allowing more Hong Kong-registered drugs and medical devices to be used in the GBA."
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance cancer screening programs, e.g. utilising District Health Centres (DHC) to run PPP mammography programs and quickly explore the feasibility to run cancer screening programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 85. "...regularising integrated Chinese-Western medicine services and gradually expanding the services to more hospitals and diseases, including actively exploring their extension to cancer care; enhancing the implementation of the Chinese Medicine Development Fund; promoting

	<p>the professional development of CM practitioners and CM drug personnel; and deepening the collaboration in CM between Hong Kong and the Mainland and the GBA.”</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve Cancer Registry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 83. “enhance healthcare services – The HA will establish the Integrated Neuroscience Centres and Cardiovascular Diseases Centres to provide integrated services for patients requiring multi-disciplinary professional support. It will also establish the Uncommon Disorders Registry and foster collaboration with the national network and the Hong Kong Genome Institute, and set up the Poison Control Centre to enhance poison control and treatment services”
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage greater focus on primary care, i.e. scope of DHC to include more early screening/ health assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 82. “We will publish the Primary Healthcare Blueprint within this year. With District Health Centres (DHCs) as the hub for co-ordinating primary healthcare services for our people, we will partner with the private healthcare sector to promote the concept of “family doctor for all” and collaborate with various healthcare professions to provide comprehensive, sustainable and people-centric primary healthcare services in the community.” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - establish the Primary Healthcare Authority for co-ordination and governance of primary healthcare service provision across the public and private sectors. It will also be responsible for setting standards and devising quality assurance mechanisms; - launch the three-year Chronic Disease Co-Care Pilot Scheme from next year, under which the DHCs will refer people who are screened to be at high risk of hypertension or diabetes mellitus to the private sector for further examination. Those who are diagnosed with the diseases will receive treatment provided by family doctors and allied health professional teams to help them better manage their chronic diseases and prevent complications. The Government will subsidise about half of the examination and treatment fees. A Strategic Purchasing Office will also be set up to co-ordinate primary healthcare services provided through the private healthcare sector; - enhance the Elderly Health Care Voucher Scheme by allowing the shared use of vouchers between spouses and extending the coverage to include primary healthcare services provided by audiologists, dietitians, clinical psychologists and speech therapists under the Accredited Registers Scheme for Healthcare Professions, as well as medical equipment (such as hearing aids) provided by them upon professional assessment. In addition, we will roll out a three-year pilot scheme to encourage the more

	<p>effective use of primary healthcare services by the elderly, increasing the annual voucher from the existing \$2,000 to \$2,500. The additional \$500 will be allotted automatically to the elderly persons' accounts upon their claiming at least \$1,000 from the voucher for designated primary healthcare services such as disease prevention and health management. The additional amount should also be used for those designated services;"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 165-166. "To balance healthcare resources and the over-concentration of pressure in public hospitals, the Government put forward the Primary Healthcare Blueprint (the Blueprint) at the end of last year, under which a series of key reform initiatives for enhancing Hong Kong's primary healthcare services are set out, and prevention-oriented, community-based, family centric, and early detection and intervention strategies are adopted. The vision of the Blueprint is to improve the overall health of the general public by providing coherent and comprehensive healthcare services and establishing a sustainable healthcare system. As introduced in the Blueprint, the Government will launch the Chronic Disease Co-Care Pilot Scheme and enhancement measures to the Elderly Health Care Voucher Scheme. The Government will announce the details in the third quarter of this year. I will set aside sufficient financial resources for the schemes."
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement in provision of mental treatment, introducing PPP practices to address long waiting time for consultation • An immediate, separate and dedicated allocation be made in the Budget for the Student Mental Health Support Scheme outlined in the Policy Address to include increased funding to address the alarming rise in the number of suicides amongst our youth and to increase the accessibility and affordability for lower income families in receiving support for children identified as being in potential danger of harming themselves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 86. "Mental health is one of the keys to happiness. The Government will enhance the mental wellness of the community with services targeting the needs of various groups. We will strengthen the multi-disciplinary Student Mental Health Support Scheme to identify students in need and make arrangements for them to receive professional support at the first opportunity. The HA will allocate additional resources to strengthen community psychiatric services and launch a pilot public-private partnership programme for the provision of psychiatric specialist out-patient service. The Social Welfare Department will also strengthen the services of the Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness. Apart from continuing to subsidise organisations to implement community support projects, we will set up a mental health support hotline to provide immediate support and referral services."
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocate more funds to support the Health Bureau and the Hospital Authority; and at the same time clarify the Health Bureau's role in relation to approval and oversight of the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

<p>Hospital Authority's budget. New additional targeted funding for the proposed Primary Care Authority will alleviate the strain on hospitals, and collaboration with the private health sector can facilitate this scheme and other schemes in the future</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modernisation of hospital construction process, i.e. digital technology in design, construction, logistics, operations, maintenance, and management of healthcare buildings e.g. BIM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 82. "rationalise healthcare premises and facilities in the community by setting up a Steering Committee on Healthcare Facilities Planning and Development to take forward relevant development and redevelopment projects." • "strengthen hospital infrastructure – We will press ahead with the First Ten-year Hospital Development Plan (HDP), adding about 4 600 beds and about 80 operating theatres in the next five years. The Second Ten-year HDP will include the development of a hospital network in the Northern Metropolis"
<p>Improving education and young people's lives</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide more capacity for accepting specialist referrals without long waiting times, together with more generic training for mainstream teachers on how to deal with counselling situations in schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 127. "special education – Starting from the current school year, hospital schools will be provided with additional resources to provide hospitalised students suffering from injuries or diseases with a holistic senior secondary curriculum and enhanced life planning education, with a view to facilitating their re-integration into mainstream schools after recovery. The Strength-based Programme under the Project on Whole School Approach to Providing Tiered Support for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder will also be expanded to help senior secondary students with autism spectrum disorder unleash their potential and strengthen their life planning. This will benefit about 100 secondary schools."
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create role of a Children's Commissioner to increase support access to social and health services, specialist education and counselling services, recreational activities and dedicated play space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 116. "rationalise the demand and supply of primary and secondary school places in a pragmatic manner and with priority consideration given to the interests of students and quality of education; and support early childhood education and special education."
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear commitment to continued provision of international education 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase focus on STEM education, i.e.: → form dedicated team to consider how to increase student's awareness of STEM's importance → encourage more females to specialise in STEM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 116. "step up efforts to promote STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics) education at primary and secondary levels;" • 117. "step up the promotion of STEAM education "for all", "for fun" and "for diversity" in primary and

subjects at secondary school and in high education (e.g. incentivise women taking up teaching positions in STEM/ introducing grants for women who study STEM at universities/ donating resources to encourage females into STEM subjects beginning at primary schools)

secondary schools, building a solid foundation for students in support of our direction of promoting I&T development in Hong Kong. We will: promote learning "for all" – More learning elements of I&T will be incorporated in the curriculum, with the aim of at least 75% of publicly-funded schools implementing enriched coding education at the upper primary level and introducing I&T elements such as Artificial Intelligence in the junior secondary curriculum by the 2024/25 school year; strengthen leadership and co-ordination – Starting from the current school year, all publicly-funded primary and secondary schools are required to designate co-ordinators to holistically plan STEAM education within and beyond the classroom, and starting from the next school year, to organise or arrange students to participate in quality STEAM activities every year; and enhance professional training – At least 75% of the publicly-funded primary and secondary schools should arrange their teachers to undergo professional training on STEAM within two school years."

- 118. "The Government staunchly encourages the University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded universities to enhance the quality of programmes for building a strong pool of talents. In the coming five years, our target is that 35% of their students will be studying STEAM subjects and 60% will be studying subjects relevant to Hong Kong's development into the "eight centres" in the 14th Five-Year Plan."
- 133. "The Government will work with all sectors of the community on a variety of activities to help young people broaden their horizons, acquire a better understanding of the development of our country and the world, and develop a proper and holistic outlook. For instance, the Hong Kong Laureate Forum will be held for the first time in November 2023. Awardees of the Shaw Prize (some of which include Nobel laureates) and world-renowned distinguished local, Mainland and overseas scientists will be invited to attend the Forum and exchange ideas and experience with young scientific talents from all corners of the world. **This international event will help promote local young people's understanding of and interest in science and technology.** Subject to the development of the epidemic, the Government will also enhance the breadth and depth of our Mainland and international internship and exchange programmes."
- 139. "Since launching, the **IT Innovation Lab in Secondary Schools Programme** and the **Knowing More About IT Programme** have been well received. I will make an **additional funding of \$300 million to continue providing subsidies of up to \$1 million**

	<p>for each publicly-funded secondary school in the next three academic years for organisation of IT-related extra-curricular activities.”</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased funding for organisations/ schools that offer support to families with special needs, and for organisations/ schools that promote sport and outdoor education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 175. “This shows that early intervention in their prime learning period not only contributes significantly to their rehabilitation and growth, but also benefits their families. In view of this, I will step up efforts to support these pre-school children by allocating additional resources to regularise Tier 1 Support Services and extend them to cover nearly 900 pre-primary institutions. Such services will also be integrated with on-site pre-school rehabilitation services, which support pre-school children with mild disabilities, to offer comprehensive and timely assistance to pre-school children with different levels of special needs through inter-disciplinary service teams under a school-based and integrated approach. The above measures will incur an annual recurrent expenditure of about \$174 million.”
<p>Boosting diversity and inclusion</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form working group to review on legislation regarding family-related leave, i.e. → shared paid parental leave to be taken by parents irrespective of gender or whether they gave birth/ adopted → introduce statutory adoption leave and give rights to those who choose to have a family in that way 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further steps to enable same-sex couples enjoy same benefits and rights as other couples 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a survey of LCSD’s own sporting facilities to improve accessibility and offer grants to enable easier access to private access for disabled people 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory annual reporting on gender pay equality in workplace to keep up with international standards, i.e.: → strengthen existing anti-sex discrimination legislation by creating rights to equal pay for equal work 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconsideration of legislation on retirement age and mandatory retirement clauses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 179. "With an ageing population and a declining birth rate, Hong Kong's workforce is expected to shrink. At present, there are about 1.5 million elderly persons aged 65 or above. Many of them are still capable of working beyond traditional retirement age and are willing to stay in employment. I propose to increase the tax deduction for the Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) voluntary contributions made by employers for their employees aged 65 or above, from the current 100 per cent to 200 per cent in respect of such expenditure. This will encourage employers to continue to hire mature employees, while helping the silver-haired increase their retirement savings."
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a tripartite working group with HKEX and Business representatives to develop guidelines and structured approach to improve HK's Board talent pipeline to meet diversity goals 	
<p>Helping people up the Housing ladder</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage development of a housing delivery model leveraging private sector's role in providing affordable housing which integrates with private sector units, i.e. → at least 10% of housing provided should be for affordable home ownership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 64. "Tenants may retain their position in the queue for traditional PRH and can move into traditional PRH later on. LPH units will be provided with basic facilities of traditional PRH units. The rent of LPH will be lower than traditional PRH in the same district. We will seek LegCo's approval for dedicated funding to build and operate LPH. At the same time, we will continue to provide about 20 000 transitional housing units through partnership with the community." • 148. "On transitional housing, as at end-2022, about 7 000 units have been put into service. It is expected that about 14 000 additional units will be coming on stream in the next two years." • "Taking into account the some 30 000 LPH units, overall public housing production will increase to around 158 000 units in the next five years (from 2023-24 to 2027-28), including the 12 000 PRH units provided under the PRH Advance Allocation Scheme (refer to item (ii) below for details). This represents a significant increase of some 50% compared to 105 000 units in the previous five-year period (from 2022-23 to 2026-27)." • 64. "enhance public-private partnership – We will introduce a new Pilot Scheme on Private Developer Participation in Subsidised Housing Development. From the next financial year, three sites will be put up for tender in batches for developers to build subsidised sale flats which will be sold to eligible persons at a specified discount rate from the market price. Under the pilot

	<p>scheme, developers are also encouraged to apply for rezoning of their own private land for subsidised sale flat development”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 136. “To help meeting the housing needs of young people and facilitate their development, we will: provide more land for the Starter Homes projects – We will again launch the Starter Homes projects in the Land Sale Programme in the next financial year. More Starter Homes projects will help young people realise their home ownership aspirations as more than 85% of past applicants for Starter Homes were aged 40 or below; and expand the Youth Hostel Scheme (YHS) – The Government will explore ways to increase the supply of youth hostels, including subsidising non-governmental organisations to rent suitable hotels and guesthouses for use as youth hostels, with the target of providing about 3 000 additional hostel places within five years. Youth tenants will be charged rental of about 60% of the market level; in return, they have to commit themselves to providing district or volunteer services to the community. In addition, the Government will identify suitable land sale sites and require developers to set aside a certain number of flats to support the YHS on a pilot basis.”
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the short term, we would, however, recommend a review of current stamp duty requirements so as not to discourage the redevelopment of old buildings in Hong Kong and to improve affordability for both first time buyers and buyers looking to upgrade their homes across the primary and secondary housing markets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 43. providing rates concession for domestic properties for the first two quarters of 2023-24, subject to a ceiling of \$1,000 per quarter for each rateable property. This measure is estimated to involve 3.03 million domestic properties and reduce government revenue by \$5.2 billion; • 152. “Last year, more than 90 per cent of buyers of residential properties were first-time buyers. Having considered that no adjustments have been made to the value bands of the ad valorem stamp duty payable for the sale and purchase or transfer of residential and non-residential properties (Rates at Scale 2) since 2010, I have decided to make adjustments in this regard, with a view to easing the burden on ordinary families of purchasing their first residential properties, particularly small and medium residential units. Details of which are set out in the supplement to the Budget. Such adjustments shall take immediate effect under a Public Revenue Protection Order published in the Gazette today. It is anticipated that this measure will benefit 37 000 buyers and cost the Government approximately \$1.9 billion per year.”
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repurpose isolation units from Covid into transitional housing units 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 64. “introduce the new LPH – The Government will make use of government and private land with no development plan in the near future, and adopt

standardised simple design and the MiC approach to build LPH units expeditiously. About 30 000 units will be completed in five years, increasing the overall public housing supply by about 25%. Those on the waiting list for traditional PRH for three years or more may apply for LPH for earlier allocation of units, and priority will be given to family applicants. Tenants may retain their position in the queue for traditional PRH and can move into traditional PRH later on. LPH units will be provided with basic facilities of traditional PRH units. The rent of LPH will be lower than traditional PRH in the same district. We will seek LegCo's approval for dedicated funding to build and operate LPH. At the same time, we will continue to provide about 20 000 transitional housing units through partnership with the community."

Preparing for a more ageing society

- **Deploy digital platforms** to improve level of support for primary care

- 101. "- regularise the Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly in the third quarter of 2023. The number of beneficiaries will increase by 50% in phases, from 8 000 at present to 12 000 in 2025-26. The coverage of the scheme will also be expanded to include rental of assistive technology products;"
- "set up 16 new neighbourhood elderly centres in the next five years and expand the services in the fourth quarter of 2023 to cover areas such as retirement planning and promotion of gerontechnology"

- **Adaptation and modification of existing public housing units and provision of age-friendly private housing units in new residential developments**

- 65. "The Secretary for Housing will chair an action group to develop "Well-Being" design guidelines for new public housing projects. We also suggest that the HKHA select five existing PRH estates as pilot projects for phased study and implementation of enhancement measures within five years, with a view to creating a living environment with a greater sense of well-being."
- 67. "Government will make available subsidised sale flats such as those under the Home Ownership Scheme, Green Form Subsidised Home Ownership Scheme and Starter Homes for Hong Kong Residents (Starter Homes) projects to meet the home ownership aspirations of the public."

- **Apply Universal Design principles to all new public and private housing construction** to improve quality of life for both elderly and disabled people

- Mentioned above;
- 103. "... to increase the number of subsidised service places. Our target is to provide an additional 6 200 places by end-2027, an increase of 20%. Of these, 2 600 places will commence service next year. We will build RCHes on suitable sites, reserve about 5% of the

	<p>total GFA in public housing development projects for welfare purposes such as the provision of RCHEs, and purchase places from private RCHEs. We will also leverage market forces to boost the supply. I have asked the DEVB and the LWB to put forward proposals early next year to provide more incentives, such as granting GFA concessions, to encourage developers to build elderly service facilities in their private development projects.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 180. “As proposed in the 2022 Policy Address, more incentives should be provided to developers for the construction and operation of residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) in private development projects. Upon review, we have decided to, in addition to continue to exempt the gross floor area (GFA) of these private RCHEs from payment of premium, raise the GFA of RCHEs that can be exempted in each development project. Furthermore, we propose to exempt such GFA from the calculation of the maximum GFA of the relevant projects. It is hoped that these enhanced measures will increase the supply of quality private RCHEs. We will launch the enhanced measures in the second quarter of this year and will conduct a review after a three-year trial period. In addition, the DEVB and the LWB will formulate a similar scheme for residential care homes for persons with disabilities (RCHDs) so as to encourage the market to provide more quality private RCHDs.”
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Ensuring Hong Kong’s Distinctiveness

British Chamber Ask / Proposal	Corresponding Proposal in the Policy Address
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devise a clear roadmap for opening up international borders and boundary with the Mainland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 139- 142. “we should avoid "backtracking" along our path of combating the epidemic. Our guiding principle is to achieve the greatest impact with the lowest cost. Provided that the epidemic is under control, the Government will continue to move forward with adjustment and enhancement to anti-epidemic measures in the light of the actual situation and development... the current-term Government has rolled out a series of precise and risk-based anti-epidemic measures in phases, gradually relaxing our control measures. These include cancelling the route-specific flight suspension mechanism, introducing the Red and Amber Codes for risk-based classification and management, changing the 7-day hotel quarantine arrangement to "3+4" and later "0+3", and relaxing social distancing measures in phases.

The "0+3" arrangement, implemented on 26 September, was a major change as it formally put an end to the inbound compulsory quarantine requirement which had been in place for more than two years.

Where conditions permit, the Government will enhance various measures in a progressive way, including social distancing measures. We will also devise specific plans to ensure that major events and economic and large-scale activities in Hong Kong can be held smoothly. **Resuming connections with the Mainland and the overseas is equally important for Hong Kong and must be pursued in tandem.**

We are making our best efforts to discuss with the Mainland to strive for resuming normal cross-boundary travel in a gradual and orderly manner, without posing additional epidemic risks to the Mainland. Our first target is to **implement "reverse quarantine" in Hong Kong, also known as "pre-departure quarantine"**. **This arrangement will be designed to comply with the "7+3" standard of the Mainland, where Mainland-bound travellers will be put under closed-loop management after undergoing quarantine in Hong Kong...** We have to closely monitor the epidemic situation outside Hong Kong, possible risks arising from winter influenza, development of virus variants, the capacity of local healthcare system, etc. The public must follow and comply with the anti-epidemic measures, as any contravention could hamper our progress made so far and render our efforts futile. As long as we play our part and stand united, our anti-epidemic journey will go more smoothly, creating the greatest room for people's livelihood and economic activities."

- **42. To support cross-boundary passenger transport** and the tourism industry, the Government will, drawing on the experience in implementing the above SFGS, launch new schemes **to offer fully guaranteed loans for eligible passenger transport operators and licensed travel agents.** It is estimated that the above schemes will involve a total loan guarantee amount of about \$2.7 billion.

- Support free flows of capital, people, goods and data with rest of the world

- Mentioned above.

- Ensure our city remains the preferred conduit for inward investment into rest of China and main route through which Mainland businesses go out to the world

- 144 - 148. "Hong Kong is a free, open and international metropolis connecting with the Mainland and the world. Hong Kong, an international financial, shipping and trade centre, is highly competitive. Hong Kong has numerous "the World's No.1" achievements: the world's freest economy, the easiest place to do business across



the globe, the number-one city in air cargo throughput, the largest offshore RMB business centre, etc. It is also the only city in Asia with five universities in the world's top 100. All these clearly demonstrate that Hong Kong has many distinctive advantages that make our people proud. Speaking of the most unique advantage, Hong Kong enjoys strong support of the Motherland while being closely connected to the world under the "One Country, Two Systems". We enjoy a low tax rate, a simple tax regime, a solid foundation of the rule of law and well-developed infrastructure. Hong Kong is well connected with the enormous markets including the Mainland and ASEAN. As a leading financial centre in the world, Hong Kong's stock market is highly active in trading. It is also the leading fund management hub in Asia with free flow of capital and high liquidity. Hong Kong exercises its judicial power independently and is the only common law jurisdiction of our nation.

- Indeed, **Hong Kong has many more good stories to tell, and the Government will take full advantage of community efforts to tell those stories.** I and my Principal Officials will **lead overseas delegations, including the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting in November and the "Think Business, Think Hong Kong" campaign in Thailand next year organised by the HKTDC.** The Financial Secretary will lead a task force, together with a "Hong Kong Team" comprising business leaders, the HKTDC, the HKTB, etc., to **visit traditional and emerging markets to rebuild the image and branding of Hong Kong through proactively establishing multilateral ties.** The task force will also **launch a new visitors' programme,** inviting around 1 000 prominent political, business and media leaders from the Mainland and overseas to visit Hong Kong on sponsorship. Tailor-made arrangements will be made, so that these visitors can see for themselves the latest developments in Hong Kong, and bring home the good stories of Hong Kong. In addition, the task force will work on showcasing the strengths of Hong Kong in a more multi-faceted and comprehensive manner via extensive multimedia channels and networks. Government departments and relevant organisations will promote Hong Kong's strengths through diversified activities. **The Financial Services Development Council and Invest Hong Kong will launch a global marketing campaign,** presenting Hong Kong's prospects and opportunities as a bridge connecting the Mainland and the rest of the world. **Radio Television Hong Kong** will enhance its cross-media multi-language broadcasting to keep expatriates in Hong Kong as well as people in the Mainland and



overseas apprised of the latest developments and appeal of Hong Kong. **Our Mainland Offices** will encourage and support representatives from our professional fields and sectors to visit the Mainland. Moreover, Hong Kong professional bodies may **apply for funding under the Professional Services Advancement Support Scheme to visit the Mainland and overseas countries** to promote their professional services, broadening the international perspectives of our professionals, particularly the young generation, and showcasing Hong Kong as a vibrant and thriving city.

- 88. "To boost the issuance and trading of RMB securities in Hong Kong, the HKEX will introduce a DCMM regime in the first half of this year to **promote the liquidity of RMB-denominated stocks and price efficiency as well as to tie in with the setting up of RMB trading counters by issuers.**"
- 91. "The HKEX will also study a series of proposals on the **optimisation of the trading mechanism**, which include exploring arrangements for maintaining operation of the market under inclement weathers and reviewing the Self-Trade Prevention function as well as the relevant restrictions, so as to facilitate transactions of investors and dovetail with the market trend"
- 94. "In addition, we just issued the inaugural one-year tokenised green bonds last week, making use of tokenisation technology in the process of bond issuance, including coupon payment, secondary trading and maturity redemption, etc. Institutional investors were the targets of this pilot issuance which explores the compatibility of Hong Kong's existing legal framework and financial infrastructure with tokenised issuance. We will consolidate the experience gained, review the development potential and prospects of tokenised bond issuance in Hong Kong, and consider policy initiatives to **promote the wider use of tokenisation technology in our capital market.**"
- 116. "In doing so, we can play our roles as a "participant" in domestic circulation and a "facilitator" in international circulation. In support of the B&R Initiative, we will **explore and tap emerging markets such as ASEAN, the Middle East, Central Asia and Africa while maintaining ties with the European and American markets.**"

- Encourage the deployment of dedicated MPF funds to fund certified green and sustainable infrastructure in HK (and in the GBA)

- 104. "At present, there are over four million MPF scheme members. Society at large has clear aspirations for MPF funds that offer stable returns at low fees. I have instructed the HKMA and the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority to conduct a study on this. To

	<p>start off, I plan to earmark a certain proportion of the future issuances of Government green bonds and infrastructure bonds for priority investment by MPF funds, thereby providing MPF scheme members an additional investment option."</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain a simple tax system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 145. "Speaking of the most unique advantage, Hong Kong enjoys strong support of the Motherland while being closely connected to the world under the "One Country, Two Systems". We enjoy a low tax rate, a simple tax regime, a solid foundation of the rule of law and well-developed infrastructure. Hong Kong is well connected with the enormous markets including the Mainland and ASEAN. As a leading..." 201. "We will strive to maintain our simple and low tax regime, the core competitiveness of Hong Kong, with a view to attracting more enterprises and talent to do business or pursue careers in Hong Kong. In this regard, the Government will put forward an enhancement proposal in mid-March to provide clearer guidelines on whether onshore gains on disposal of equity interests are subject to tax. The initiative will not only facilitate business expansion and restructuring through disposal of equity interests, but also enhance tax transparency, lower the compliance cost of businesses, increase the competitiveness of Hong Kong's tax regime, and enhance the attractiveness of Hong Kong as an international investment and business hub."
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain effective communication with affected MNEs, under the introduction of a domestic minimum top-up tax starting from 2024/25, to understand their practical concerns in designing a simplified and effective administrative process to alleviate any potential compliance burden 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 200. "In October 2021, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development announced the international tax reform proposals to address base erosion and profit shifting (abbreviated as BEPS 2.0). A global minimum effective tax rate of 15 per cent will be introduced on large multinational enterprise (MNE) groups with global turnover of at least 750 million euros. Hong Kong will implement the global minimum effective tax rate in accordance with international consensus so as to safeguard our taxing rights and maintain the competitiveness of our tax regime. The Government has been closely liaising with the trade in this regard while closely monitoring the implementation plan of other jurisdictions. Hong Kong plans to apply the global minimum effective tax rate on these large MNE groups and implement the domestic minimum top-up tax starting from 2025 onwards. It is estimated that this will bring in tax revenue of about \$15 billion per year for the Government. We will launch a consultation

	<p>exercise to allow MNE groups to make early preparation.”</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage further consideration of tax and other incentives to promote the growth of creative industries in Hong Kong 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 127. “To further promote the exchange of culture and arts in the GBA, Hong Kong will serve as the host city for the GBA Culture and Arts Festival in 2024, offering high-quality cultural and performing arts programmes from the area. I will allocate \$20 million for hosting the festival. It is expected that 5 000 Hong Kong and Mainland artists as well as other practitioners in the arts and cultural sector will participate in the festival, attracting an anticipated audience of 140 000 people. I also propose to provide a total of \$135 million over five years, starting from the next financial year, to support performing arts groups and artists in Hong Kong in taking part in performances and productions in the GBA. It is anticipated that each year 1 000 Hong Kong artists will participate in these activities, with an audience of 40 000 from the GBA.” 129. “I will inject an additional \$500 million into the CSI to support the development of our creative industries, encourage more cross-sectoral and cross-genre collaboration on creative and cultural programmes, and promote the co-production of television variety programmes by local television stations with Mainland or Asian production teams to enhance the influence of Hong Kong’s pop culture. The CreateSmart Initiative (CSI) will also provide funding support for the Hong Kong Design Centre and the HKTDC to implement flagship events and incubation programmes.”
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote our natural and historical heritage e.g. country parks, outstanding natural beauty, cultural icons or historical sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 58. “We will continue to promote characteristic local tourism by allocating \$600 million for a three-year Cultural and Heritage Sites Local Tour Incentive Scheme to encourage the tourism industry to develop products with cultural and heritage elements. In addition, the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) will launch a new round of Spend-to-Redeem Local Tours and Staycation Delights with increased quotas to enhance local ambience and consumption. To re-establish Hong Kong's position as the region's premier destination for meetings, incentive travels, conventions and exhibitions (MICE), the HKTB will enhance its support for MICE tourism in light of the epidemic development so as to attract more high value-added overnight visitors to Hong Kong.” 92. “Eco-tourism in Southern Part of Lantau – We are actively studying the development of about 1 000

	hectares of the "Green Belt" sites in the southern part of Lantau for eco-tourism or recreation uses"
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand immigration arrangements for non-local graduates (IANG) scheme, i.e. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → expand number of students that HK universities can take from the Mainland and overseas → extend period of stay after graduation for them to find jobs in HK → extend scheme to first degree level for at least for some areas of study where demand for talent is highest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 29. "relax the Immigration Arrangements for Non-local Graduates (IANG) by extending the limit of stay from one year to two years to facilitate their staying in or coming to Hong Kong for work; and expand the scope of the arrangements to cover those who graduated from the GBA campus of a Hong Kong university on a pilot basis for a period of two years"

2. Additional Points of Interest

Below is a snapshot of other points which may be of relevance and interest to Chamber members and its Committees in the Policy Address and Budget Address. The Chamber is pleased to note that many of these points were mentioned by the Chamber in previous years' Policy Address Submissions.

Security while Upholding "One Country, Two Systems"

7. The principle of "One Country, Two Systems" is the best institutional safeguard for the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong. As stressed by President Xi Jinping in his important speech delivered on 1 July, "One Country, Two Systems" has been tested repeatedly in practice, so there is no reason for us to change such a good policy, and we must adhere to it in the long run. The President has set a definitive tone and given strong assurances to Hong Kong, dispelling past discussions over the principle of "One Country, Two Systems".

8. The top priority of the principle of "One Country, Two Systems" is to safeguard national sovereignty, security and development interests. As clearly reflected from the experience over the past 25 years since our return to the Motherland, we must fully and faithfully implement the principle of "One Country, Two Systems", safeguard the HKSAR's constitutional basis and order as laid down by the Constitution of the People's Republic of China (the Constitution) and the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China (the Basic Law), implement the principle of "patriots administering Hong Kong" and uphold the overarching principle of safeguarding national security. The more firmly the "One Country" principle is upheld, the greater strength the "Two Systems" will be unleashed.

9. Over the past 25 years, Hong Kong has overcome various challenges and forged ahead with progressive development. Our pace has not slowed despite the changing external environment, the impact of the epidemic and the social unrest previously. Nevertheless, the prosperity and stability we now enjoy cannot be taken for granted. Having restored order from chaos, we must stay alert to threats and dangers, adopt bottom-line thinking, and sustain our efforts in safeguarding national sovereignty, security and development interests in order to guard vigilantly against the recurrence of threats. Following our transition from chaos to order, Hong Kong is advancing from stability to prosperity with our constitutional order better safeguarded and our governance systems improved. Development is of overriding importance. Hong Kong has considerable room for development given our sound foundation for growth, as well as the advantages of enjoying strong support of the Motherland and being closely connected to the world under the principle of "One Country, Two Systems".

Fully and Faithfully Implement the Principle of "One Country, Two Systems"

10. The development of Hong Kong allows no delay. Social stability is the prerequisite for our development, and we have to get rid of any interference. We must carry on the mainstream values characterised by the love of both the Motherland and Hong Kong at the core and in conformity with the principle of "One Country, Two Systems", and motivate the whole community to work together to create a better future.

11. We will continue to steadfastly safeguard the constitutional order of the HKSAR and our country's fundamental system set out under the Constitution. We will further strengthen publicity and education on the Constitution, the Basic Law and the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (the National Security Law). The Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee, led by the Chief Secretary for Administration, will be renamed the Constitution and the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee to underline the importance the Government attaches to the promotion of the Constitution as well as our determination to take forward relevant work.

12. To further preserve the dignity of the regional flag and the regional emblem as a symbol and ensign of the HKSAR, the Government will introduce into the Legislative Council (LegCo) amendments to the Regional Flag and Regional Emblem Ordinance within the current legislative year to align with the National Flag and National Emblem Ordinance and the National Anthem Ordinance as appropriate.

13. To ensure the faithful adherence to the legislative intent of the National Security Law, we will further strengthen the legal system and enforcement mechanisms for safeguarding national security by pressing ahead with the preparatory work for the enactment of legislation to implement Article 23 of the Basic Law, legislating for the regulation of online and offline crowdfunding activities, making laws for enhancing cybersecurity of critical infrastructure, completing the consultancy study on addressing the issue of false information for policy consideration, etc.

14. To implement "patriots administering Hong Kong", the Government will strictly adhere to the improved electoral system in organising various elections in accordance with the law. Patriots aspiring to participate in politics and policy debates will be given the opportunities to be elected in a fair, just and open manner. Moreover, the Government will, on the basis of integrity and competence, draw widely on outstanding individuals who love the Motherland and Hong Kong and with resolute stance, strong governance capabilities and the passion to serve the community into the Government and various committees and public bodies.

15. I will strengthen and implement the executive-led structure and continue to explore ways to foster constructive and interactive relationships between the executive and the legislature. The Ante Chamber exchange sessions will be refined to strengthen exchanges with Members of the LegCo, so as to achieve better collaboration in policy formulation. Together, we can enhance our governing capability by following through decisions made after informed discussion.

16. The Government will safeguard independent judicial power. We fully support the Judiciary in exercising its judicial power independently in accordance with the law, and protect and support judges, prosecutors and legal practitioners in discharging their duties in accordance with the law. We will safeguard due administration of justice and the rule of law to enhance the confidence of the public and the international community in our rule of law.

17. The Government will establish the Steering Committee on Rule of Law Education, to be chaired by the Secretary for Justice, to launch a new "Rule of Law Education Train-the-Trainers Programme" for promoting consistent and correct messages on the rule of law in the community.

Project Manpower Requirement for Supporting the Economy

33. ... The Development Bureau (DEVB) and the Transport and Logistics Bureau will review the labour shortage situation in the construction and transport sectors respectively to draw up relevant solutions.

34. The LWB will commence a new round of manpower projections to help the Government formulate appropriate strategies to address the overall manpower demand. We will enhance the methodology,

including shortening the projection period from 10 years previously to 5 years to reflect the trends in our economic and labour markets in a more timely manner. Key findings will be available in 2024.

137. Since its launch in 2014, the Maritime and Aviation Training Fund (MATF) has benefited more than 15 000 students and practitioners, and supported the industries in their promotional and publicity work. I will **inject \$200 million into the MATF to support manpower training of the logistics industry, promote the development of high-end, high value-added and smart logistics, and encourage the industry to collaborate with tertiary institutions and professional organisations in attracting more young people to join the industry.** In addition, we will launch a **Maritime Services Traineeship Scheme** this year to provide traineeship opportunities for young people who aspire to a career in maritime law, with a view to nurturing more home-grown maritime lawyers.

140. In order to meet the manpower requirement for future infrastructure development, we will work with tertiary institutions to offer a comprehensive study and career development pathway and launch a two-year pilot scheme to provide on-the-job training allowance to trainees who have enrolled in part-time construction-related degree programmes. It is **estimated that a funding of about \$100 million will be incurred. The Government will also earmark \$7 million to partner with Hong Kong Institute of Construction to launch a two-year "First-hire-then-train" subsidy scheme, to provide on-the-job training allowance to trainees who have chosen to enrol in Construction Safety Officer courses.**

International Financial Centre

37. ...Enhance our strengths as the largest offshore RMB business centre – Hong Kong currently processes about 75% of offshore RMB settlement globally. We will promote the launch of more RMB-denominated investment tools and the provision of stable and highly efficient treasury services such as foreign exchange, exchange rate risk and interest rate risk management tools in the market. We will also enhance market infrastructure;

Continuously enhance our competitiveness in Fintech – Currently, there are more than 600 Fintech companies in Hong Kong. We will vigorously promote Fintech by encouraging more Fintech services and products to undergo proof-of-concept trials, taking forward cross-boundary Fintech projects and nurturing Fintech talents. The Commercial Data Interchange will be launched within this year to provide a one-stop platform for enterprises to share operational data, enabling banks to make accurate assessments on the operating condition of enterprises and providing SMEs with a better chance of securing loans... The HKMA has also begun the preparatory work for issuing "e-HKD" and is collaborating with the Mainland institutions to expand the testing of "e-CNY" as a cross-boundary payment facility in Hong Kong.

136. Since its launch in 2016, the Pilot Programme to Enhance Talent Training for the Insurance Sector and the Asset and Wealth Management Sector has been well received. We will extend the programme for three years to nurture more talents for the industry and enhance the professional competency of practitioners.

100. We will continue to take forward the application testing and preparatory work for various financial technology (Fintech) infrastructure projects, including "e-HKD" and "e-CNY" as crossboundary payment facilities. In addition, the HKMA is currently **working with the Bank of Thailand to explore the use of Hong Kong's Faster Payment System and Thailand's PromptPay** by visitors from the two places for local payment, providing them with another safe, fast and effective payment option.

Financial Inclusiveness

103. The Government will **continue to adopt a multi-pronged approach in developing the retail bond market**. I plan to issue no less than \$50 billion of Silver Bond and \$15 billion of retail green bonds in the next financial year, so as to facilitate market development and at the same time offer members of the public investment options with steady returns.

Green Bonds

215. The Government Green Bond Programme (GGBP), which has won considerable acclaim from international investors since its launch, has become a benchmark for issuance of green bonds in the region. The Government will **further expand the scope of the GGBP to cover sustainable finance projects**. The HKMA will announce the details in due course.

Infrastructure Bonds

216. Infrastructure is one of the key areas for sustained economic development and improvement of people's quality of life. I propose the **setting up of an Infrastructure Bond Scheme to enable us to better manage the cashflow needs of major infrastructure projects and facilitate the early completion of projects** for the good of the economy and people's livelihood, so that members of the public can enjoy the benefits early. Meanwhile, we will also **explore public participation in bond subscription** for our people to develop a "sense of participation" and a "sense of gain" in their support for Hong Kong's long-term development projects. I will introduce the relevant proposals to the LegCo in 2023-24.

217. Even with further bond issuance in future, we will still strive to keep the government debt-to-GDP ratio at a relatively low level, which is expected to remain below 10 per cent by the end of the MRF period in 2027-28. I have to emphasise that we will continue to adhere to the fiscal discipline of keeping expenditure within the limits of revenue. Proceeds from bond issuance will not be used for funding recurrent expenditure.

135. To further nurture Fintech talents, the Government will **launch a Fintech internship scheme for post secondary students**, under which subsidies will be provided to participating students in Hong Kong and the GBA. The scheme facilitates eligible students to acquire practical work experience in Fintech enterprises in Hong Kong or the wider GBA, and helps them develop an early interest in pursuing a career in Fintech after graduation, with a view to enlarging the local Fintech talent pool.

International Innovation and Technology Centre

39. First, to enhance the I&T ecosystem and achieve re-industrialisation in Hong Kong. We will:

Promote commercialisation of research and development (R&D) outcomes – Hong Kong has strong capabilities in scientific research. We will earmark \$10 billion to launch the "Research, Academic and Industry Sectors One-plus Scheme" (RAISE+ Scheme) next year. It will fund, on a matching basis, at least 100 research teams in universities which have good potential to become start-ups. Each team should complete its project in two stages: the first stage for the transformation and realisation of R&D outcomes within three years and the second stage for the commercialisation of R&D outcomes within the subsequent two years. The aim is to incentivise collaboration among industry, academic and research sectors to further promote the "1 to N" transformation of R&D outcomes and the industry development;

78. To step up investment in technology startups, the HKSTPC will **inject \$400 million into its Corporate Venture Fund to help more technology start-ups with potential**. In addition, the HKSTPC will, through **consolidating its existing Acceleration Programme and injecting an additional amount of \$110 million, launch the Co-acceleration Programme** in collaboration with cooperation partners to support the growth of technology start-ups with high potential into regional or global enterprises.

77. Microelectronics is the core technology in high-tech and information industries. Given the rapid growth of its global demand, microelectronics has infinite room for development and Hong Kong must seize this opportunity. The Government will **support the establishment of a Microelectronics Research and Development Institute to promote microelectronics development in Hong Kong, aiming to make it a leading organisation for supporting microelectronics development in the Asia-Pacific region.** The Institute will be tasked with strengthening collaboration with universities, R&D centres and the industry and expediting the “1 to N” transformation of technological outcomes. This will help pool together Mainland and overseas talents in relevant fields and strengthen the nurturing of local R&D talents, thereby further enhancing the I&T ecosystem.

Promote the development of technology industry – We will actively promote Hong Kong's new opportunities to the Mainland and overseas. By collaborating with the OASES and making use of the \$5 billion Strategic Tech Fund as well as the land and space provided for I&T uses starting from 2024 in the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park (HSITP) in the Lok Ma Chau Loop, we will attract high-quality enterprises and talents to Hong Kong, primarily focusing on industries such as life and health technology, artificial intelligence and data science, as well as advanced manufacturing and new energy technology. Our goal is to attract not less than 100 high-potential or representative I&T enterprises to set up or expand their businesses in Hong Kong in the coming five years, including at least 20 top-notch I&T enterprises, bringing more than \$10 billion of investment to Hong Kong and creating thousands of local job opportunities;

75. In a bid to enhance support for the transformation of R&D outcomes as well as R&D activities related to life and health technology, I will **set aside \$6 billion out of the above provision to provide subsidies for universities and research institutes to set up thematic research centres.** The aims are to foster cross-university, cross-institutional and multi-disciplinary co-operation. We will invite universities and research institutes interested in setting up life and health technology research institutes to submit proposals in 2023-24.

Press ahead with re-industrialisation – We will create the post of Commissioner for Industry who will co-ordinate and steer the strategy on re-industrialisation and assist the manufacturing sector in upgrading and transformation by making use of I&T. We will explore the construction of the second Advanced Manufacturing Centre at the Tai Po InnoPark. We will also subsidise the setting up of more smart production lines in Hong Kong under the Re-industrialisation Funding Scheme, with the target of increasing the cumulative number of smart production lines by four times from about 30 at present to over 130 in five years. Furthermore, we will strengthen the collaboration with the Hong Kong Productivity Council to support enterprises in upgrading to smart production; and

80. The Advanced Manufacturing Centre (AMC) in the Tseung Kwan O InnoPark was opened in April 2022, providing advanced manufacturing space of about 110 000 square metres. Tenants which have already moved in include enterprises engaged in the manufacturing of civilian satellites and advanced materials as well as provision of smart logistics-related services. To tie in with the policy objectives of attracting strategic enterprises to establish a presence in Hong Kong and promoting new industrialisation, the Government will **plan ahead to provide more advanced manufacturing space, including to support the setting up of the second AMC, on which the HKSTPC is currently conducting a feasibility study.**

Strengthen infrastructure and facilities – We will move full steam ahead with the construction of the HSITP and expedite the development of San Tin Technopole in the Northern Metropolis. The expansion works of the Science Park and Cyberport will be completed in phases from 2025 onward,

providing 100 000 square metres of additional floor area. We are also planning the Science Park/Pak Shek Kok Station of the East Rail Line for commissioning by 2033.

Enhance accommodation support – We will build more accommodation facilities for I&T talents, including to explore the development of a new InnoCell near Science Park and accommodation facilities for talents at the HSITP. In support of the development of San Tin Technopole, we will allow greater planning flexibility to provide additional accommodation for I&T talents; and

Web3

55. The Internet has been undergoing continuous development and evolution. Every generation of technological reform brings about new applications and fresh opportunities, and even disrupts the mode of business operation. The third generation Internet (Web3), currently in its start-up period, has the same huge potential. We must keep up with the times and seize this golden opportunity to spearhead innovation development.

56. Cyberport established the Web3 Hub@Cyberport early this year. I will allocate \$50 million to expedite the Web3 ecosystem development by, among other things, organising major international seminars, to enable the industry and enterprises to better grasp frontier development and to promote cross-sectoral business co-operation, as well as arranging a wide array of workshops for young people.

East-meets-West Centre for International Cultural Exchange

43. Nurture a diversified talent pool – The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA) ranks first in the Performing Arts category among all higher education institutions in Asia. We have asked the HKAPA to look into ways to nurture arts and cultural talents for Hong Kong and the GBA, and to establish a new campus in the Northern Metropolis and raise the proportion of non-local students. Moreover, we will launch various arts and cultural internship programmes and subsidise HKAPA students or those studying arts and cultural programmes in universities to undertake internships in arts groups and the WKCD.

Additional resources will also be deployed to support and nurture promising and budding arts groups and artists. The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) will continue to collaborate with the WKCD in grooming more professionals to develop Hong Kong into a regional centre for arts conservation and restoration. Also, to establish a thriving and diversified arts, cultural and creative ecosystem, we will continue to attract more talents in and outside Hong Kong to pursue their aspirations here;

Continuously upgrade cultural infrastructure – We will map out a new 10-year development blueprint for arts and cultural facilities, including plans to increase the number of LCSD's museums to 19 and the number of seats at performance venues by about 50%. The East Kowloon Cultural Centre will be commissioned in phases starting from next year, and will become a base for accelerating the promotion and application of integrated "Arts+Tech". To leverage market forces for the development of the arts and cultural sector, we will also devise measures to encourage the provision of arts and cultural facilities such as theatres in private developments;

Promote platforms for arts and cultural industries – Hong Kong is home to a number of globally acclaimed platforms for fostering the development of arts, cultural and creative industries, including Art Basel Hong Kong, Hong Kong International Film & TV Market, and Business of Design Week. The first Hong Kong Performing Arts Market will also take place in 2024. We will invite the Hong Kong

Trade Development Council (HKTDC) to enhance its Asia IP Exchange portal with a view to creating favourable conditions for the development of arts and cultural industries. We will also explore measures to support the industries in widening the scope of copyright trading activities so as to foster the commercialisation and development of arts, cultural and creative industries.

International Aviation Hub

51. The Hong Kong International Aviation Academy will work with aviation training institutions in the Mainland to **send young people to the airports** on each side for internship starting from the first half of 2023. About 300 places will be provided in the first year. The Academy will continue to partner with the National School of Civil Aviation of France to co-organise the Advanced Master Programme in Air Transport Management so as to attract prospective students from Belt and Road countries and consolidate Hong Kong's position as a regional aviation training centre. Moreover, we will develop Hong Kong into the preferred location for aircraft leasing in the region by further enhancing the aircraft leasing preferential tax regime.

110. The Government will **enhance the aircraft leasing preferential tax regime**, striving to establish Hong Kong as an aircraft leasing and services hub. The Government has conducted a trade consultation on the proposed enhancement measures, which include allowing tax deduction for the acquisition cost of aircraft and expanding the scope of leases and aircraft leasing activities. This has been welcomed by the trade. These enhancement measures will further attract more aircraft leasing companies to establish a presence in Hong Kong. **We will introduce a bill into the LegCo in the fourth quarter of this year.**

Promote the International High-end Maritime Service Industry

113. I will **earmark \$20 million to expedite studies on strategies for promoting the high-end maritime service industry and enhance exchanges among industries in the international arena and the GBA.** The scale of the annual flagship event Hong Kong Maritime Week will also be expanded.

Centre for International Legal and Dispute Resolution Services in the Asia-Pacific Region

52. Enhance promotion – Starting with the "Hong Kong Law Week 2022" scheduled for this November, the Department of Justice (DoJ) will lead delegations of local legal profession to conduct overseas visits from next year to showcase to the international community the advantages of Hong Kong's rule of law as well as our diversified legal and dispute resolution services under the common law system, in particular the various mutual legal assistance arrangements on civil and commercial matters between Hong Kong and the Mainland;

Support emerging industries – The DoJ will develop user-friendly and practical legal guides and tools, such as boilerplates of commonly used contractual terms, for financial services, I&T, arts, cultural and creative industries, etc., to facilitate the provision and use of legal services by those within and outside the industry; and

Enhance interaction with the GBA – The DoJ will establish a task force to focus on strengthening mutual legal assistance between the GBA and Hong Kong, and facilitating the convergence of legal practices between the two places. The DoJ will also establish an online mediation platform dedicated to dispute resolution in the GBA within next year to facilitate interactions between people and business of the two places.

121. The **AALCO (Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization) Hong Kong Regional Arbitration Centre was established** in Hong Kong in May last year. With the support of the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the International Organization for Mediation Preparatory Office was officially opened in Hong Kong in the middle of this month. To foster integration of legal practices in the GBA, the Department of Justice (DoJ) has set up a task force, comprising experts and academics, to study various measures for facilitating exchanges among the people and businesses in the area. The DoJ will seek to establish and promote the use of a common online mediation platform for dispute resolution in the GBA, with a view to providing a more convenient, efficient and cost-effective means for people and businesses in the GBA to settle cross-boundary disputes online.

Strengthening Overseas Economic and Trade Connections

117. On expanding our global economic and trade networks, we have been seeking to **enter into free trade agreements (FTAs) and investment agreements (IAs) with more economies**. The FTAs and IAs signed by Hong Kong so far have covered most of our major trading partners. We will continue to actively take forward the relevant work, with emerging economies as priority targets to inject new impetus into Hong Kong's trade development.

Open up Target Emerging Markets

118. To further **assist Hong Kong enterprises and investors in opening up markets**, the Government will provide **additional funding of \$550 million in total to the HKTDC** in the five financial years starting from 2023-24. The additional funding aims to help Hong Kong enterprises seize opportunities arising from the B&R Initiative and the GBA development and tapping into emerging markets as well as stepping up our global promotional efforts.

Regional Intellectual Property Trading Centre

53. Strengthen protection of IP rights – We plan to achieve the following targets next year: to complete the preparatory work for implementing the international trademark registration system; to secure passage of the amendment bill to the Copyright Ordinance to strengthen copyright protection in the digital environment; and to roll out a pilot project with the China National Intellectual Property Administration to enable Hong Kong applicants to enjoy prioritised examination of qualified patent applications in the Mainland. Our medium-term goal is to conduct a review of the registered designs regime in 2024. We will also enhance the substantive examination capability of patent examiners under the original grant patent system and develop a talent pool, with a view to acquiring institutional autonomy in conducting substantive patent examination by 2030;

123. The Government will continue to allocate resources to further promote and develop the "original grant patent" system to tie in with Hong Kong's I&T development. An **additional funding totalling \$10 million will be allocated to the Intellectual Property Department in the next two years** for employing and nurturing its patent examiners as well as progressively developing a talent pool, with a view to acquiring institutional autonomy in conducting substantive patent examination by 2030.

124. The Government will also continue to enhance the IP regime. To strengthen copyright protection in the digital environment, the **Copyright (Amendment) Ordinance 2022 will come into operation on 1 May this year**, following which we will **embark on a new round of review** as soon as possible as part of our ongoing efforts to enhance the competitiveness of our copyright regime. We also plan to **table the relevant subsidiary legislation for implementing the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks in the LegCo** in the first half of this year, with a view to putting in place the international trademark registration system under the Protocol as early as possible. This will enable trademark owners to register and manage their trademarks in multiple jurisdictions under one single application.

125. I&T is a key engine for driving the development of a knowledge-based economy. Legal protection of R&D outcomes in the I&T field can be acquired through patent registration, which facilitates IP trading activities such as buying/selling and licensing and the development of new products and services, as well as unleashes the underlying economic value of the concerned intangible assets. To encourage the I&T sector to forge ahead with more R&D activities and create more patented inventions with market potential, we will **introduce a "patent box" tax incentive to provide tax concessions for profits sourced in Hong Kong from qualifying patents generated through R&D activities.** We will **consult the trade on the "patent box" tax arrangements within this year and formulate a competitive concessionary tax rate applicable to Hong Kong.** Our target is to **submit the legislative amendments to the LegCo in the first half of 2024.**

Build capacity – Our target is to provide IP training for 5 000 personnel across different industries within the current-term of the Government; and

Promote widely – We will promote Hong Kong's IP trading and professional services through various activities, including the HKTDC's Business of IP Asia Forum organised annually. The HKTDC will also enhance its Asia IP Exchange portal next year to facilitate different sectors to further explore commercial opportunities in IP trading.

Develop Northern Metropolis as the New Engine for Growth

56. Make available sites for different industries – Sites will be made available gradually in the next five years to support the development of I&T and other industries. Three buildings are under construction in the Lok Ma Chau Loop in San Tin Technopole, and part of the land in the Loop will be ready for attracting businesses and investment from next year. The first batch of San Tin I&T sites outside the Loop will commence works in 2024, while the first batch of sites for development of industrial buildings in areas earmarked for logistics and emerging industries in Hung Shui Kiu and Yuen Long will be available from next year. Hung Shui Kiu/Ha Tsuen NDA is positioned as a modern service hub, and site formation works for the commercial sites near Hung Shui Kiu Station will also be completed in 2026;

Construct landmark developments – We will plan for a number of landmark developments in the Northern Metropolis such as cluster of cultural facilities, post-secondary education institutions, major sports facilities, hospital networks and cluster of government facilities to facilitate development of the area and to provide a quality living environment. Certain government offices currently in central business districts with no specific location requirements will be relocated to the Northern Metropolis, including for example nearly 40% of the office floor area in the Queensway Government Offices, with a view to driving the development of the area and releasing the land in the central business districts;

Pursue proactive ecological conservation – Upon completion of the relevant study next year, we will implement a New Proactive Conservation Policy to gradually resume private wetlands and fish ponds with ecological value and develop a Wetland Conservation Parks System, with a view to increasing the environmental capacity for the development of the Northern Metropolis. Separately, we will initiate the statutory procedures for designating about 500 hectares of land in Robin's Nest as a country park in 2024, which will echo with the Shenzhen Wutong Mountain Scenic Area, creating a cross-border ecological corridor between Hong Kong and Shenzhen.

Land: Increasing Reserve and Regaining Control of Supply

68. Among the remaining 8 000 hectares, 1 200 hectares have been included in various development projects. In the new round of study, we have shortlisted about 255 hectares of "Green Belt" sites with potential for housing development, which can provide 70 000 units. The **rezoning of the first batch of sites** will commence by 2024. The Planning Department will complete the review of the development potential of all the remaining "Green Belt" areas next year.

70. In addition, we will put forward the development proposal for Tseung Kwan O (TKO) Area 137 this year. It is expected to provide 50 000 residential units with the first population intake in 2030 at the earliest.

Multi-pronged Approach to Enhance Speed and Efficiency

71. Streamline the arrangement for land lease extension – As a considerable number of land leases will expire from 2025 onward, the Government will introduce a bill next year such that expiring land leases will be extended regularly and in a consistent manner. This will save individual lot owners from dealing with the complicated procedures and bearing expensive costs in executing lease extension documents, and s Enhance Transparency

75. We will put forth proposals on the scope of reclamation, land use, transport infrastructure network and financing options regarding the Artificial Islands within this year. Our target is to commence the EIA process next year and kick-start the reclamation works in 2025.

Healthcare

82. Enhance the role of Chinese medicine (CM) by increasing the annual quota of government-subsidised CM out-patient service by one-third from 600 000 to 800 000, and strengthening the CM services of DHCs;

Better utilise multi-disciplinary healthcare services, including amendment of the Supplementary Medical Professions Ordinance to facilitate direct access of patients to services provided by physiotherapists and occupational therapists without a doctor's referral;

Review dental services by setting up a working group on the development of dental care services to review the existing services and to advise the Government on enhancing the service scope and delivery mode; and

83. Reduce the waiting time for specialist out-patient services – The Hospital Authority (HA) will adopt a multi-pronged approach, including to (1) allocate more resources for new cases; (2) streamline referral arrangements for cross-specialty cases; (3) set up integrated clinics to provide multi-disciplinary support to minimise patients' waiting time for multiple specialists; and (4) enhance downloading of patients in stable condition to primary healthcare. The target is to reduce the waiting time of stable new case bookings for the specialty of Medicine by 20% in the next financial year (2023-24);

Enhance healthcare services – The HA will establish the Integrated Neuroscience Centres and Cardiovascular Diseases Centres to provide integrated services for patients requiring multi-disciplinary professional support. It will also establish the Uncommon Disorders Registry and foster collaboration with the national network and the Hong Kong Genome Institute, and set up the Poison Control Centre to enhance poison control and treatment services;

84. To help ensure sufficient healthcare manpower for the public healthcare system, we will look into different options including requiring qualified healthcare professionals to serve in public healthcare institutions for a specified period of time, and admitting qualified non-locally trained dentists and nurses.

85. To further promote the development of CM, we will enhance the functions of the Chinese Medicine Unit under the Health Bureau with the creation of the post of Commissioner for Chinese Medicine Development to strengthen the development of CM and relevant policy co-ordination work, which include formulating a blueprint for the development of CM; taking forward the provision of an additional 200 000 quotas of CM out-patient service; regularising integrated Chinese-Western

medicine services and gradually expanding the services to more hospitals and diseases, including actively exploring their extension to cancer care; enhancing the implementation of the Chinese Medicine Development Fund; promoting the professional development of CM practitioners and CM drug personnel; and deepening the collaboration in CM between Hong Kong and the Mainland and the GBA.

168. I plan to **inject an additional amount of \$500 million into the fund starting from this financial year to support the commissioning of large-scale training, research and publicity projects on strategic themes and to take forward more capacity building programmes for the sector**, which include making preparations for Hong Kong's first Chinese medicine hospital which is expected to commence services in 2025 and strengthening the role of Chinese medicine in the primary healthcare system.

87. Our tobacco control efforts will continue, even though the smoking prevalence in Hong Kong reached an all-time low of 9.5% last year. We will consult the public early next year on the next steps for tobacco control. Our target is to further reduce smoking prevalence to 7.8% by 2025.

170. To safeguard public health, I propose to **increase the duty on cigarettes by 60 cents per stick with immediate effect**. Duties on other tobacco products will also be increased by the same proportion. A rise in cigarette price will increase the incentive of smokers to reduce or quit smoking. Our target is to bring the smoking prevalence rate down from the current 9.5 per cent to 7.8 per cent. With this target in mind, we will continue to review the overall effectiveness of tobacco control measures, and in parallel step up efforts to promote smoking cessation as well as law enforcement against illicit cigarettes.

Sports development

89. To further promote sports in the community, we will work with the sports sector, schools and the business sector to promote urban sports that are popular among young people in recent years, such as 3-on-3 basketball, sport climbing and skateboarding. We will also review the competition events of the Hong Kong Games to provide more opportunities for participation of different age groups.

172. In recent years, both the Olympic Games and the Youth Olympic Games have introduced a range of urban sports that are popular among the youth. The Government will **promote urban sports in collaboration with the sports community, schools and other sectors**. The Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau is **examining the conversion of some underutilised floors of the Kwun Chung Municipal Services Building into an urban sports centre**, so as to provide a suitable venue for activities such as sport climbing and skateboarding.

90. The Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau will map out a 10-year development blueprint for sports and recreation facilities, providing about 30 diversified facilities by phases, such as sports centres, swimming pools, sports grounds and parks. The planned facilities include Hong Kong's second sports park to be developed in Whitehead, Ma On Shan, and large-scale sports and recreation facilities in the Northern Metropolis.

91. The Government will continue to enhance the professionalism in the sports sector and develop sports as an industry, including enhancing the arrangement of training and competition venues for qualified sports clubs and supporting local sports clubs in their participation in major sports competitions in the Mainland and the region. We will also launch a five-year pilot programme on career and education for athletes with disabilities to equip them for post-retirement development.

A Caring and Inclusive Hong Kong

93. I proposed in my election manifesto to set up District Services and Community Care Teams (Care Teams). The Government will set up the Care Teams and will devise governance structures and

operational arrangements, provide some of the resources required and set KPIs. The 18 districts in Hong Kong will be delineated into sub-districts, based on which we will widely engage local organisations and groups to form Care Teams to pull together all sectors including young people and ethnic minorities to take part in community building. The Care Teams will organise caring activities, such as visiting the needy. We will first set up the Care Teams in Tsuen Wan and the Southern District in the first quarter of 2023, and in the remaining 16 districts in phases.

44. Besides, I propose to **increase the basic child allowance and the additional child allowance for each child born during the year** of assessment from the current \$120,000 to \$130,000 starting from the year of assessment 2023/24. This measure is estimated to benefit 324 000 taxpayers and reduce tax revenue by \$610 million a year.

District Administration

94. The current-term District Councils will expire by end-2023. I have asked the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) and the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau to conduct a review on district administration and put forward suggestions to ensure that the future arrangement will be in conformity with the Basic Law, in adherence to the principle of "patriots administering Hong Kong", and conducive to enhancing governance efficacy at the district level.

Targeted Poverty Alleviation

95. The current-term Government adopts the strategy of targeted poverty alleviation by directing resources to those most in need. The Task Force to Lift Underprivileged Students out of Intergenerational Poverty, led by the Chief Secretary for Administration, launched the Strive and Rise Programme in September through tripartite collaboration among the Government, business sector and community. The programme targets more than 2 000 junior secondary students (particularly those living in sub-divided units) with mentorship, personal development planning and financial support. It has been well received by the community. Upon programme evaluation, we will chart the way forward and consider increasing mentee quotas and expanding the target group.

96. I have also asked the Chief Secretary for Administration to restructure the Commission on Poverty to study and identify any other target group for poverty alleviation.

43. (f) **granting each eligible residential electricity account a subsidy of \$1,000.** This measure will involve an expenditure of about \$2.9 billion. The current arrangement of distributing electricity charges relief of \$50 a month to each eligible residential electricity account will be extended to the end of 2025. This measure will involve an expenditure of about \$3.5 billion and benefit around 2.9 million residential households.

Employees' Remuneration and Occupational Safety

97. Invite the Minimum Wage Commission to study how to enhance the review mechanism of the statutory minimum wage, including the review cycle, how to improve efficiency, and balancing a host of factors such as the minimum wage level and sustained economic development, and make proposals to the Government;

Set a good example and further review the arrangement relating to the employment of non-skilled workers under government outsourced service contracts, including remuneration of workers, as well as relevant monitoring mechanism. We aim to conclude the review by the first quarter of 2023; and

Enhance the procedures of the Protection of Wages on Insolvency Fund, including providing legal services by the Fund to assist employees in filing winding-up or bankruptcy petitions against insolvent employers, so as to expedite the disbursement of ex-gratia payment to affected employees.

98. Many sectors are now seeing a shortage of manpower. To encourage the public to enrol in training and enter the workforce, the Government will invite the Employees Retraining Board to consider raising the daily rate of retraining allowance and providing allowances for half-day courses for implementation by the first quarter of 2023.

99. Fatal industrial accidents result in tragic loss of lives, and cause distress to families over the loss of their loved ones. The Government will spare no effort in investigating each and every incident, pursuing responsibilities of those who should be held accountable and putting in place improvement measures. We will seek the passage of the relevant bill under scrutiny by the LegCo as soon as possible to increase the maximum penalties for occupational safety offences, thereby enhancing their deterrent effect.

Caring for the Elderly

100. Hong Kong has the longest life expectancy in the world. The vast majority of the elderly live and age in the community with the support of their families or the Government. Only about 4% reside in RCHes. Furthermore, about three quarters of the elderly population (about 1.1 million people) are receiving financial assistance under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme and Social Security Allowance Scheme. The Government will improve elderly services with due emphasis on both quality and quantity, and adhere to the policy objective of promoting "ageing in place as the core, with institutional care as back-up".

101. Expand the HA's Integrated Discharge Support Programme for Elderly Patients by increasing the number of beneficiaries by one third, from about 33 000 to 45 000 per annum, in the third quarter of 2023. The number of beneficiaries who can be referred to home support services will increase from about 9 000 to 11 000, so as to support more discharged elderly patients to recover at home.

102. Carers play an important role in supporting elderly persons and persons with disabilities to live in the community. They deserve more recognition and stronger support. From October 2023, the Government will regularise the allowance for carers of elderly persons and persons with disabilities under the Community Care Fund and raise the amount of subsidy. For instance, the monthly living allowance for carers from low-income families will be increased by 25% from \$2,400 to \$3,000, benefitting about 10 000 carers. In addition, a number of measures will be rolled out from next year, including setting up a one-stop information gateway and a designated hotline for carers, increasing the number of respite service places and enhancing the service enquiry system, promoting community-based peer support for carers, and launching a territory-wide publicity campaign to raise public awareness of the needs of carers.

178. Carers devote much time and energy to support elderly persons and persons with disabilities, so that they can continue to live in a familiar community. They deserve credit for building a caring and inclusive society. In recognition of their sacrifices and contributions, the Government will **step up its efforts to cater for carers' various needs**. On financial support, the Government will **regularise two financial assistance schemes for carers from low-income families and raise the amount of monthly allowance starting from October** this year, involving an annual expenditure of about \$430 million. The Government will also **set up a dedicated carer support hotline in the third quarter of this year**, with professional social workers rendering emergency support, emotional counselling, and outreaching services.

104. In the coming five years, we will subsidise an additional 1 700 or more students to enrol in nurse training programmes. They will be required to work in the welfare sector for at least three years upon graduation. The Government will also undertake a holistic review of the skill and qualification requirements of residential care home staff, so as to establish professional standards and a career progression path.

43. (c) **providing an allowance to eligible social security recipients**, equal to one half of a month of the standard rate Comprehensive Social Security Assistance payments, Old Age Allowance, Old Age Living Allowance or Disability Allowance. This measure will involve an additional expenditure of about \$2,721 million. Similar arrangements will apply to recipients of the Working Family Allowance, involving an additional expenditure of about \$116 million;

176. The Government provides the elderly with various types of care and support services at the community level to help them age in place. In addition to the provision of services such as personal care, nursing care and rehabilitation exercises at day care centres and homes of the elderly, we will **regularise the Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly in the third quarter of this year** and increase the number of beneficiaries from the current 8 000 to 12 000 in 2025-26, involving an annual recurrent expenditure of about \$900 million. The Government will also **set up 16 new neighbourhood elderly centres in the next five years** and **expand the service scope of a total of over 200 district elderly community centres and neighbourhood elderly centres in the fourth quarter of this year** to cover retirement planning and promotion of gerontechnology.

177. The Government is also concerned about the post-treatment care and rehabilitation needs of elderly persons. The **Hospital Authority's Integrated Discharge Support Programme for Elderly Patients** offers six to eight weeks of support services for discharged elderly patients with a higher risk, which include rehabilitation exercises, meal services, environmental risk assessments and recommendations on home modifications, in order to facilitate their recovery at home and reduce their re-admission risk. The Government will **expand the programme starting from the third quarter of this year** by increasing the number of beneficiaries from about 33 000 to 45 000 per annum, and the number of beneficiaries who can be referred to receive home support services will increase from about 9 000 to 11 000. This measure will **involve an annual recurrent expenditure of about \$74 million**.

Protecting Children

105. It is heart breaking to learn of child abuse cases in recent years. We will take forward at full steam the setting up of a mandatory reporting mechanism for child abuse cases by introducing a bill into the LegCo in the first half of 2023. We will also provide training for relevant practitioners to facilitate their early identification and reporting of child abuse cases. Furthermore, we have identified areas requiring focused efforts for improvement in residential child care services. We will improve service quality in a holistic manner, enhance service plan, strengthen law-enforcing inspections and engage independent persons to conduct unannounced inspections.

Empowering Women

106. In the next three years, we will substantially increase funding for organising activities to promote women development by the Women's Commission from \$4 million to \$10 million per annum. A Women Empowerment Fund will be set up to subsidise community projects that support women in balancing job and family commitments, and unleashing their potential.

174. Women's contribution to family and social and economic development is enormous. The provision of more opportunities to help women achieve a sense of self-fulfilment and bring their potential to the fullest is essential to the development of our society. I will **set aside \$100 million to strengthen support for women's development** and the related tasks, which include helping women take up different roles in the job market, providing them with training on child and elderly care, promoting work and family life balance as well as mental health, and organising sharing and learning activities.

Ethnic Minorities

107. To further enhance the support for ethnic minorities, we will recruit more ethnic minorities for appointment as Employment Assistants and General Assistants in the Labour Department, and set up a service centre on a trial basis to provide emotional support and counselling for ethnic minorities.

A Liveable Hong Kong

108. Establish the standard mode of operation, through rationalising the responsibilities among departments and relevant workflow, for implementation in various districts to handle different environmental hygiene issues in an effective manner;

Conduct a comprehensive review on the existing statutory powers and penalties regarding environmental hygiene. The first stage is to consult the LegCo this year on the proposal to increase the existing fixed penalty level of \$1,500 for offences such as littering and shopfront extension. Other proposed legislative amendments will be put forth in mid-2023; and

Liven up public space and improve streetscapes, including landscaping, beautifying road signs and upgrading street furniture.

Striving towards Carbon Neutrality

110. Conserve energy – Over 60% of our carbon emissions is attributable to generating electricity for buildings. Our goal is to improve the overall energy performance of government buildings and infrastructure by more than 6% by 2024-25. We will accelerate the incorporation of district cooling systems in NDAs (including the Northern Metropolis) to reduce energy consumption. We are preparing legislative amendments to expand the scope of the Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme to include more household appliances. By doing so, the total residential energy consumption of household appliances accounted for under the scheme will increase from 50% to about 80%;

160. We have also **set aside \$350 million to provide subsidies to four in-harbour ferry operators for the construction and trials of electric ferries and the related charging facilities**, with a view to testing the technical and commercial viability of using electric ferries in Hong Kong. The trials are expected to commence in 2024.

Mobility with Convenience

114. The Public Transport Fare Subsidy Scheme has been well received by the public. I hereby announce that the special temporary measures under the scheme will be further extended for another six months. From 1 November 2022 to 30 April 2023, the Government will continue to provide commuters with a subsidy amounting to one-third of their monthly public transport expenses in excess of \$200, subject to a maximum of \$500.

43. (d) **extending the temporary special measures under the Public Transport Fare Subsidy Scheme for a period of six months till October 2023** to provide commuters with a subsidy amounting to one-third of their actual monthly public transport expenses in excess of \$200, subject to a maximum of \$500 per month. This measure will involve an additional expenditure of about \$1.08 billion. It is estimated that the scheme will benefit about 3.5 million commuters per month;

Education

119. We will gradually increase the number of UGC-funded research postgraduate (RPg) places by about 1 600, from some 5 600 at present to 7 200 in the 2024/25 academic year. This, together with

the gradual uplift of the over-enrolment ceiling of RPg places from 70% to 100% from last year onward, will increase the number of RPg places by more than 50%.

121. Moreover, to ease the financial burden of loan repayers under the student financial assistance schemes for local post-secondary students, the Government will extend the current interest-free deferral of loan repayment for another year until 31 March 2025. - enrich applied learning and workplace experience of secondary students – We will enhance the senior secondary applied learning courses by offering more course options and support, and launch the Business-School Partnership Programme 2.0 with more business partners covering more industries; and

43. (e) paying the examination fees for school candidates sitting for the 2024 Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination, incurring an expenditure of \$151 million; and

126. Given the structural decline in Hong Kong's student population, the Government will keep the actual situation of primary and secondary school places under review. We will adopt the target of "soft landing" and rationalise the demand and supply of school places in a pragmatic manner, with the interests of students and education quality as our priority considerations. We will maintain close communication with school sponsoring bodies and assist the sector in planning ahead through strategies such as suspending plans to operate new schools, relocating and merging schools, etc. The use of resources will be optimised to enhance education quality. The Government will continue to implement small class teaching in public sector primary schools in an orderly manner, achieving small class teaching in over 90% of these schools after two school years.

127. Kindergarten education – A one-off grant of \$60 million in total will be provided to all kindergartens joining the KES to assist their development into "smart kindergartens" through digitalising school administration and enhancing work efficiency. Moreover, a subsidy of \$30 million in total will be provided to KES kindergartens for the creation of "healthy schools" by improving the ventilation of school premises; and

Youth Development

128. Nurture a new generation of young people with an affection for our country and Hong Kong and equipped with global perspectives, an aspiring mindset and positive thinking;

Give young people our love and care, attach importance to their whole-person development, and provide them with an enabling environment to cherish a hope for the future and strive for continuous growth, so that they could unleash their full potential in society and contribute to Hong Kong, our country and the world; and

Introduce a series of initiatives to assist young people in overcoming difficulties in education, career pursuits, entrepreneurship and home ownership.

129. The Blueprint is the Government's very first major document dedicated to youth development. We will implement the initiatives set out in the Blueprint and review them regularly for enhancement, so as to ensure that they keep pace with the changing social environment and meet the needs of our young people.

130. The HYAB and the Youth Development Commission are now seeking views from young people and stakeholders. They have organised and participated in over 80 related activities so far, and are paying visits to all 18 districts to learn more about the views of young people for incorporation into the Blueprint.

131. We will launch the Youth Participation Initiative to engage more young people in public affairs and enhance their interaction and trust with the Government. Specifically, we will:

Expand the Member Self-recommendation Scheme for Youth – We aim to triple the number of participating advisory committees from around 60 at present to no less than 180 within the current term of the Government to enhance their function as talent "incubators"; and

Encourage young people to participate in community development – We will designate two committees on district affairs and open up certain seats for young people to nominate themselves as members. Young people will be encouraged to offer their views on matters such as district works projects, youth development and civic education.

Encourage Installation of Separate Water Meters for Subdivided Units

181. To encourage landlords' participation in the Scheme for Installation of Separate Water Meters for Subdivided Units launched by the Water Supplies Department, payment of the water fee deposit and the charge for providing a meter for each separate water meter installed under the scheme will be waived. Every such water meter account will have a separate water bill for paying water charge, and the first 12 cubic metres of water consumed for each four-month period will be free of charge.

special football betting duty

196. Nevertheless, in the face of fiscal pressure, we must seek ways to increase government revenue in the short term. I propose to **impose an annual special football betting duty of \$2.4 billion on the Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC) under the Betting Duty Ordinance for five years starting from 2023-24**, while the current betting duty rates remain unchanged. In formulating this arrangement, we have given due consideration to the intense external competition facing by the local betting business. The HKJC has also undertaken that the proposal would not reduce its commitment to local charities.

24 February 2023