

**Women's Commission**

**Public Engagement Exercise on Population Policy –  
“Thoughts for Hong Kong”**

**Purpose**

This paper seeks Members' views on the issues raised in the consultation document on population policy, entitled “Thoughts for Hong Kong”, as released by the Steering Committee on Population Policy.

**Background**

2. The Steering Committee on Population Policy released the consultation document on population policy, entitled “Thoughts for Hong Kong”, on 24 October 2013 and launched a four-month public engagement exercise. The public engagement exercise aims to deepen the public's understanding of the demographic challenges and facilitate extensive public deliberation and discussion on issues related to population policy with a view to forging consensus on policy directions.

**The public engagement exercise**

3. Based on the three main areas in the consultation document (at **Annex**), namely existing population, new sources and the ageing population, the Steering Committee on Population Policy has proposed five policy strategies to deal with the challenges:

- (a) Increase the quantity of the labour force by drawing more people into the labour market;
- (b) Enhance the quality of the labour force by improving education and training and minimising skills mismatch;
- (c) Build up human capital with a more proactive policy and targeted approach to attract more talent from overseas and the Mainland. Consider a more effective importation of labour system without jeopardising the interests of local workers;
- (d) Foster a supportive environment for childbearing for young

- couples; and
- (e) Build an age-friendly environment, promote active ageing and develop the “silver hair market”.

### **Advice sought**

- 4. Members are invited to comment on the issues set out in the consultation document at **Annex**.

**Women’s Commission Secretariat**  
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