

Box 3.1

Latest Government measures on land supply and housing (October 2017)

In the 2017 Policy Address, the Chief Executive announced a range of initiatives on land supply and housing to tackle the issues of difficulty in achieving home ownership and poor living conditions. The policies and measures are summarised below.

(1) Land supply

To take a macro review of the land supply options, the Task Force on Land Supply (Task Force) was established in September 2017. Serving as an objective and rational forum, the Task Force would lead the community to discuss and make trade-offs on the land supply options and their priorities through analyses of facts and the pros and cons, with a view to building the broadest consensus and mapping out the direction for land supply that would benefit the community as a whole. The Task Force plans to launch a public engagement exercise in the first half of 2018.

(2) Housing Policy

The Government's housing policy comprises four elements: (i) the Government has an indispensable role in the housing market, while maintaining respect of a free market economy; (ii) the Government would focus on home-ownership and strive to build a housing ladder to rekindle the hopes of families in different income brackets to become home-owners; (iii) the Government would step up the effort in increasing the supply of housing units on the basis of the Long Term Housing Strategy; and (iv) with insufficient land and when new supply is not yet available, the Government would optimise the existing housing resources to meet the housing needs of families that have long been on the waiting list for public rental housing (PRH) and to help residents in poor living conditions. Specific measures in the housing market include :

Green Form Subsidised Home Ownership Scheme (GSH)

- Propose that the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HKHA) regularises GSH and offers more GSH flats for sale.
- Subject to the outcome of review, convert some 4 000 new PRH units in Fo Tan into GSH units for sale in late 2018.

Interim Scheme to Extend the Home Ownership Scheme (HOS) Secondary Market to White Form Buyers

- Propose that the HKHA regularises the scheme, thereby allowing White Formers to become home-owners through the HOS Secondary Market and at the same time facilitating the turnover of subsidised sale flats.

Box 3.1 (Cont'd)

“Starter Homes” Scheme

- Introduce a “Starter Homes” Scheme for higher-income families who are not eligible for HOS and find it difficult to afford private housing.
- Launch a pilot scheme by the end of 2018 by using a residential site at Kwun Tong on the Government’s Land Sale Programme to provide about 1 000 “Starter Homes” units.

Community Initiatives on Social Housing

- Facilitate the implementation of various short-term community initiatives to increase the supply of transitional housing, with a view to alleviating the hardship faced by families on the PRH waiting list and the inadequately housed.