

Dear Members,

The Chief Executive presented her Policy Address, entitled "Striving Ahead with Renewed Perseverance" on Tuesday 25 November. Each year the Chamber submits a paper, ahead of her Policy Address, putting forward the Chamber's key policy recommendations and suggestions for the Chief Executive and the administration. This year had particular importance given Hong Kong has faced an unprecedented past 12 months.

Our 2020/2021 submission adopted the themes of "Recovery, Rebuilding and Repositioning" as Hong Kong moves forward.

- In terms of "Recovery", this was about learning the lessons from COVID-19; finding an appropriate methodology to keep businesses going until we can open up the economy again and reducing current travel/quarantine restrictions; and regaining community trust in the way forward for our city.
- In terms of "Rebuilding", we focused on the need for a major programme of infrastructure investment; rebuilding the SME economic base in Hong Kong; continuing to grow our financial markets; refreshing and enhancing the healthcare system; as well as strengthening the logistics sector.
- In terms of "Repositioning", we saw the need to rebuild and refresh Hong Kong's international competitiveness and international reputation; and also, for a longer-term focus on digitalisation, a more liveable city and education. We also saw the need to take steps to reduce social and gender inequality.

The submission drew on the huge range of practical expertise and knowledge across the Chamber membership, working through our specialist Committees. We have also been grateful to have had regular closed-door meetings with senior members of the Government during the year, supported by stand-alone policy or position papers. I know from the response that we have received that the Government welcomes our proposals and pays attention to our views.

You will have seen reporting of this year's Policy Address, with its strong focus on upholding "One Country, Two Systems", the opportunities in GBA, building a liveable city, people's livelihood and restoring the economy.

Attached is an analysis showing 'points of overlap' between this year's policy address and the Chamber's submission, and which therefore draw on or reflect our submission. Areas where I believe our proposals have been considered or had influence include:

- Infrastructure projects – committing to a major yearly programme of ongoing infrastructure spending
- Land supply – boosting land supply, including the streamlining of land development and approval processes
- SMEs support – establishing the "SME ReachOut" service team and the expanding the BUD Fund ("Branding, upgrading and Domestic Fund") and EMF ("SME Export Marketing Fund")

- Developments in relation to GBA - including establishing a one-stop "GoGBA" platform, and enhancing the "Connect" schemes
- Smart city - digitalisation of Government services, support for the logistics sector, using smart traffic management systems and digital learning
- Decarbonisation – setting a challenging target to decarbonise our city by 2050

The collective effort and quality of thinking that goes into our Policy Address submission is a reflection of the calibre of the Chamber membership. The Chamber committee structure plays a significant role as the backbone of the policy work that we engage in. This year, more than ever has shown how strong the Chamber community is and we are grateful to all the Committees and members who were involved in this important submission.

To discuss how to get involved with and find out more about the Chamber's policy and advocacy work please email the Chamber team at membership@britcham.com.

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