



HONG KONG
 **YOUNG LEADERS**
 PROGRAMME

Redefining “Smart City” FOR RESILIENCE IN THE NEW NORMAL



REDEFINING “SMART CITY”

Hong Kong’s recent social unrest and the global COVID-19 pandemic have revealed deep fragilities in the city’s economic model. Despite being one of the world’s wealthiest economies, it is also one of the most unequal. Hong Kong’s wealth disparity has created a multitude of socio-economic issues that have impacted citizens’ quality of life and contributed to recent discontent.

In December 2020, the Hong Kong Government launched its second edition of the Smart City Blueprint. The Blueprint put forward initiatives under six smart areas: mobility, living, environment, people, government, and economy. While the government has implemented many technology initiatives to enhance city management, there remain opportunities to address some of the fundamental quality of life issues for Hong Kong citizens by redefining what a smart city should aspire to be.

The 2021 Hong Kong Young Leaders Programme explored this topic by investigating how to develop Hong Kong into a smart city that builds resilience and improves quality of life for all. The report includes policy recommendations for five key focus areas: **health and wellbeing**, **future skills**, **inclusive economy**, **low carbon economy** and **quality built environment**, which are intended to serve as a reference for policymakers, industry players, and civil society leaders.



A VISION TO GUIDE POLICYMAKING



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Hong Kong will be an **inclusive economy** built on **social cohesion** and **trust** to ensure resilience in the new normal.

This will be achieved through **prioritising wellbeing**, **building a healthy and liveable environment**, **promoting low carbon lifestyles**, **encouraging life-long learning opportunities**, in order to enable citizens to live **dignified and prosperous lives**.

KEY POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS



Health & Wellbeing

1 Relieve the burden on family caregivers through employment support schemes from 2025

Policy Recommendation: Implement a **Family Care Furlough Scheme** and provide paid leave to employees to take care of family members. Official partnership with private healthcare and equipment providers to provide subsidised aid and technology.

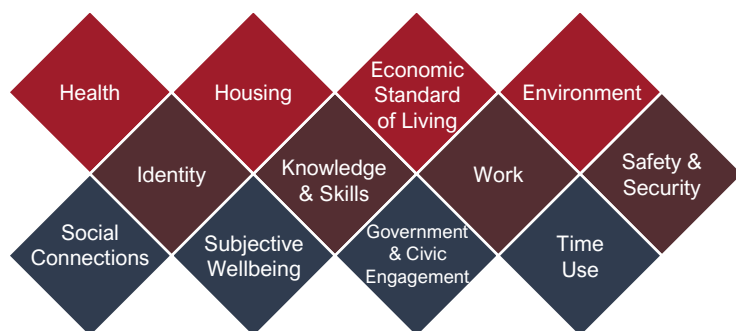
2 Improve the fitness level of Hong Kong school children by 30% by 2030

Policy Recommendation: Introduce a **Healthy School policy** to improve health literacy and outcomes in children through engaging the public, increasing physical activity times, promoting use of idle spaces for activities, training healthy teachers, establishing clinics at schools, and providing healthy meals.

3 Integrate health outcomes into all aspects of public policy by 2026

Policy Recommendation: Assess overall wellbeing of Hong Kong through a **Wellbeing Index** and formulate targeted policies aimed at raising wellbeing outcomes.

Policy 3: Wellbeing Index



Using geospatial data, the Wellbeing Index can be mapped out and “hotspots” of low wellbeing can be identified for targeted intervention on for example, where residents are most dissatisfied with public open space, areas where children have low educational/skills attainment, or districts where residents feel everyday living expenses are high. These insights can be used to inform district-level decisions related to public infrastructure or provide targeted services to meet wellbeing gaps.



Future Skills

1 Create a University of Applied Sciences (UAS) & admit 20% of all Bachelor's students to it by 2030

Policy Recommendation: Provide youth with more pathways in applied learning by formalising applied learning in secondary and tertiary education and rebrand the Technological and Higher Education Institute (THEi) into the **University of Applied Sciences**.

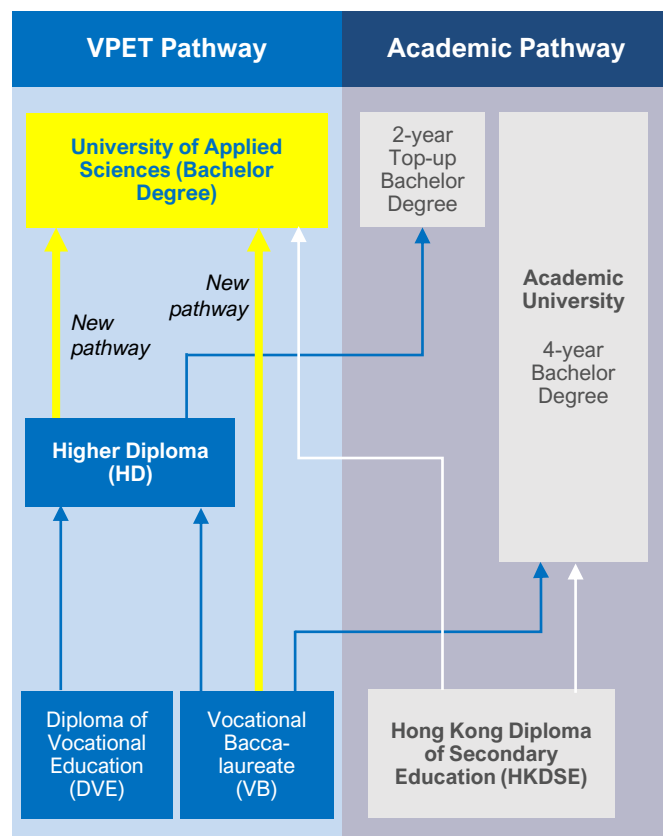
2 Train 5,000 learners annually in GBA-recognised collaborative VPET programmes by 2030

Policy Recommendation: Create a GBA Vocational Training Hub in Hong Kong, develop a **Vocational Training Park** at the Lok Ma Chau Loop, and develop a mutually-recognised qualifications framework in the GBA to facilitate talent mobility.

3 Increase Hong Kong's continuing education participation rate from 25% to 60% by 2030

Policy Recommendation: Foster an “**Earn to Learn**” spirit in Hong Kong and encourage lifelong learning through a **Lifelong Development Fund** and instituting **Personal Development Leave**.

Policy 1: Formalise Applied Learning



KEY POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS



Inclusive Economy

1a

Reduce youth unemployment rate from 10% to 7% by 2025

Policy Recommendation: Increase employability of youth through a structured apprenticeship/internship scheme with vocational training.

1b

Increase elderly labour participation from 11% to 20% by 2030

Policy Recommendation: Provide job opportunities for elderly aged over 60 through incentives to employers and a **Senior Mentor Programme**.

2

Significantly increase and centralise access to available public funding by 2024

Policy Recommendation: Develop a **1Stop Funding Portal** for SMEs, NGOs and startups to expedite search, application and processing of available public funds.

3

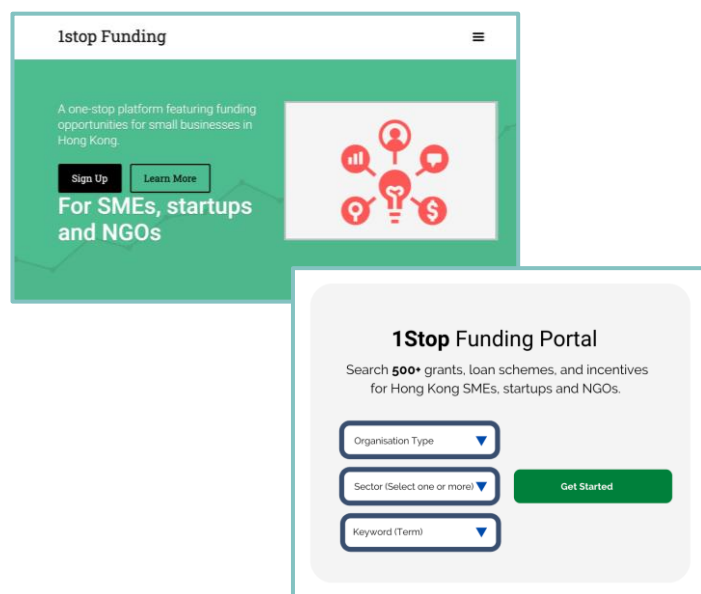
Increase employment in healthcare-related services to 5% of total employment by 2030

Policy Recommendation: Establish Hong Kong as a global centre of excellence in healthcare and provide a wider range of job opportunities.

Policy 2: 1Stop Funding Portal

The 1Stop Funding Portal aims to provide centralised and transparent funding application information to enable startups, SMEs and NGOs to gain easier access to funds, and streamline the application process to reduce manpower and administrative costs.

Proposed Funding portal Design:



Low Carbon Economy

1

Half greenhouse gas emissions from the electricity sector by 2030

Policy Recommendation: Tackle greenhouse gas emissions from the electricity sector holistically by implementing a carbon tax on fossil fuel generation; setting stricter legislation and implementation timelines for energy efficiency in existing and new buildings; and implementing an overconsumption charge to regulate excessive energy use.

2

Reduce transport's greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2035

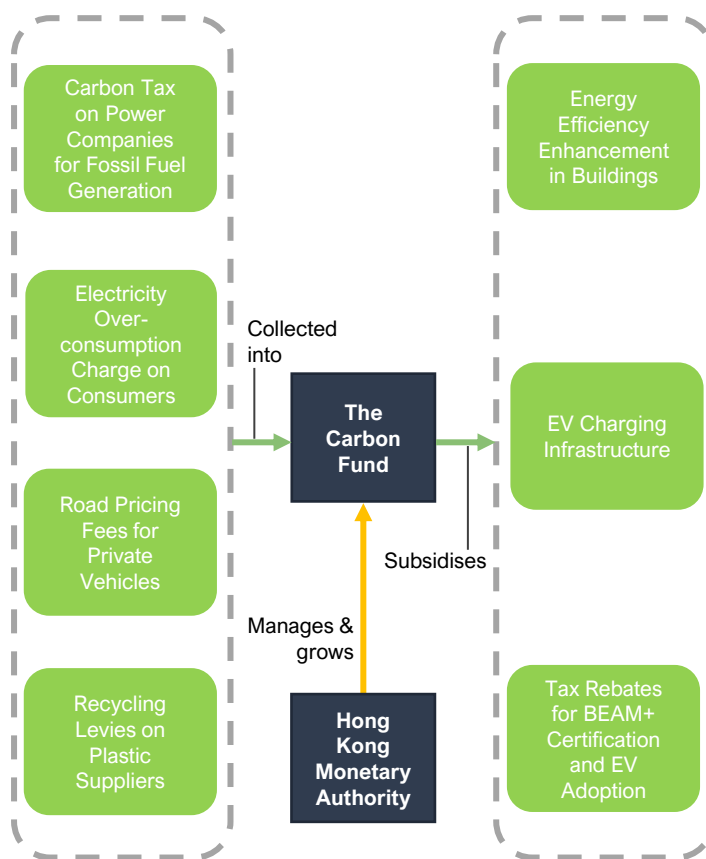
Policy Recommendation: Create a **Low-emission Transport System** in Hong Kong by electrifying 100% of public transportation; expanding electric vehicle charging infrastructure; extending the policy to include prohibiting new registration of fuel-propelled private cars to all road vehicles; and introducing electronic road pricing.

3

Reduce total plastic volume sent to landfills by 80% by 2030

Policy Recommendation: Promote **circular plastic waste management** in Hong Kong by banning single-use plastic, commercialising the use of plastic alternatives, and expanding Producer Responsibility Schemes for all recyclable products.

All Policies: Financing Mechanism – The Carbon Fund



KEY POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS



Quality Built Environment

1

Provide 100,000 low-income elderly households with age-friendly home renovations by 2030

Policy Recommendation: Establish a **Silver Home Fund** to subsidise age-friendly home renovations for elderly living in poverty to facilitate ageing in place.

2

Increase public open space from 2.7 m² to 3.5 m² per capita by 2035

Policy Recommendation: Establish a **Public Open Space (POS) Commission** to oversee the development of POS holistically. The Commission's objectives would be to upgrade existing POS facilities to meet community needs, create new POS targeting dense low-income areas with low POS per capita, and increase the sociability, accessibility, and utilisation of POS.

3

Increase community engagement in POS projects by launching 10 pilot projects on the Platform by 2025

Policy Recommendation: Establish a **Public Participation Platform** to enable active community engagement in the design, construction, and operation of public space projects. The online Platform would formalise community engagement and increase transparency and accessibility in the process to effectively serve the needs of the whole community.


Policy 1: Silver Home Fund

The Silver Home Fund aims to promote self-reliance by improving safety, accessibility, and mobility within homes to enable elderly to live dignified and fulfilling lives. By creating an age-friendly built environment, elderly can remain productive and integrated in society.

The Fund would be:

Administered by:  社會福利署
Social Welfare Department

Annually allocated: \$ 750 million

Annually subsidise:  12,500 Households

Provide a maximum subsidy of: \$ 50,000 / household

Elderly recipients will receive tailored home installations; examples include electronic door locks, ramps, handrails, wheelchairs, shower chairs, and smart toilets.



The **Global Institute For Tomorrow (GIFT)** is an independent pan-Asian think tank committed to purposeful leadership learning and partnering with clients to help them unlearn conventional wisdom and unleash organisational potential to redesign society.

The **Young Leaders Programme (YLP)** is GIFT's experiential leadership programme designed for a tri-sector cohort of managers from government, leading companies and civil society to think critically about the drivers of change in the 21st century and develop new policies and innovations that address the defining challenges of our time.

During this YLP, participants convened in Hong Kong over the course of 31 May – 5 June and 20 – 25 June 2021 to undertake classroom discussions, stakeholder meetings, and policy development sessions. The highlights from this proposal were presented at GIFT's Global Virtual Forum on 25 June 2021, which was attended by over 3,000 attendees from Hong Kong and around the world.

GIFT would like to thank everyone involved who put in their valuable time and efforts to make this possible.

You can download the full report [here](#).



Tomorrow Matters.

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