

# *Report of the Director of Audit*



## **Audit Commission**

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

### **Loan Fund**

### **Independent Auditor's Report To the President of the Legislative Council**

#### *Opinion*

I certify that I have examined and audited the financial statements of the Loan Fund set out on pages 86 to 93, which comprise the statement of assets and liabilities as at 31 March 2020, and the statement of receipts and payments for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, the financial statements of the Loan Fund are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Public Finance Ordinance (Cap. 2) and section 11(1) of the Audit Ordinance (Cap. 122).

#### *Basis for opinion*

I conducted my audit in accordance with section 12(1) of the Audit Ordinance and the Audit Commission auditing standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of my report. I have fulfilled the independence and other ethical responsibilities in accordance with those standards. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

#### *Other information*

The Director of Accounting Services is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises all the information included in the Accounts of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region for the year ended 31 March 2020 published by the Treasury, other than the financial statements and my auditor's report thereon.

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

#### ***Director of Accounting Services' responsibilities for the financial statements***

In accordance with section 16(1) of the Public Finance Ordinance, the Director of Accounting Services is responsible for the compilation and supervision of the accounts of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, for the management of accounting operations and procedures, and for ensuring that all regulations, directions or instructions made or given under the Public Finance Ordinance relating thereto and in respect of the safe custody of public moneys and its accounting are complied with.

#### ***Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements***

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Audit Commission auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Audit Commission auditing standards, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control;
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Loan Fund's internal control; and

- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used by the Director of Accounting Services.

John Chu  
Director of Audit

28 October 2020

Audit Commission  
26th Floor  
Immigration Tower  
7 Gloucester Road  
Wanchai, Hong Kong

# Loan Fund

## STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 MARCH 2020

(Expressed in Hong Kong dollars)

	Note	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Loans Outstanding</b>	<b>3</b>		
Housing loans		3,420,503	3,025,540
Education loans		17,949,149	17,910,590
Other loans		10,516,414	10,475,776
		<b>31,886,066</b>	31,411,906
<b>Net Current Assets</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Investments with the Exchange Fund	<b>4</b>	4,664,835	3,549,714
Cash and bank balances		12,300	12,339
		<b>4,677,135</b>	3,562,053
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Deposits	<b>5</b>	(32,194)	(27,186)
		<b>4,644,941</b>	3,534,867
		<b>36,531,007</b>	34,946,773
<b>Representing:</b>			
<b>Total Fund Balance</b>			
<b>Applied Fund</b>	<b>6</b>	31,886,066	31,411,906
<b>Available Fund</b>	<b>7</b>		
Balance at beginning of year		3,534,867	4,094,387
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		1,110,074	(559,520)
Balance at end of year		<b>4,644,941</b>	3,534,867
	<b>8</b>	<b>36,531,007</b>	34,946,773

Notes 1 to 11 form part of these financial statements.

**Charlix WONG**

Director of Accounting Services

27 August 2020



# Loan Fund

## STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

(Expressed in Hong Kong dollars)

	Note	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
<b>Cash and bank balances at beginning of year</b>		<b>12,339</b>	12,489
Receipts	<b>9</b>	<b>3,458,827</b>	3,851,999
Payments	<b>10</b>	<b>(2,348,753)</b>	(4,411,519)
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</b>		<b>1,110,074</b>	(559,520)
<b>Other cash movements</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>(1,110,113)</b>	559,370
<b>Cash and bank balances at end of year</b>		<b>12,300</b>	12,339

Notes 1 to 11 form part of these financial statements.

**Charlix WONG**  
Director of Accounting Services  
27 August 2020



# Loan Fund

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Expressed in Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated)

### 1. Purpose and Legislation

The Loan Fund finances loans and advances for schemes of developments in Hong Kong and loans to students under schemes approved by the Finance Committee. It was established with effect from 1 April 1990 by a Resolution (hereinafter referred to as the Resolution) passed by the Legislative Council under section 29(1) of the Public Finance Ordinance (Cap. 2) on 14 March 1990.

### 2. Accounting Policies

- (i) Subject to (ii) below, the accounts of the Loan Fund are kept on a cash basis. Transactions are recorded when moneys are received or paid.
- (ii) The Statement of Assets and Liabilities is structured to show the overall financial position of the Fund including the total outstanding loans.

### 3. Loans Outstanding

	2020			2019		
	Housing Loans \$'000	Education Loans \$'000	Other Loans \$'000	Housing Loans \$'000	Education Loans \$'000	Other Loans \$'000
Balance at beginning of year	3,025,540	17,910,590	10,475,776	3,030,699	17,678,138	8,639,340
<b>Additions</b>						
Loan payments	428,544	1,797,122	123,087	297,840	2,194,076	1,919,603
Capitalised interest	36	122,848	194,167	35	-	193,750
	428,580	1,919,970	317,254	297,875	2,194,076	2,113,353
<b>Deductions</b>						
Loan repayments	(33,617)	(1,881,116)	(255,564)	(21,920)	(1,960,998)	(259,102)
Loans written off	-	(295)	(21,052)	(244)	(626)	(17,815)
Proceeds from sale of loans	-	-	-	(280,870)	-	-
	(33,617)	(1,881,411)	(276,616)	(303,034)	(1,961,624)	(276,917)
<b>Balance at end of year</b>	<b>3,420,503</b>	<b>17,949,149</b>	<b>10,516,414</b>	<b>3,025,540</b>	<b>17,910,590</b>	<b>10,475,776</b>

# Loan Fund

## 4. Investments with the Exchange Fund

(i) These are investments and deposits held under paragraph 8 of the Resolution:

	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
Investments (Notes (ii) and (iii) below)	4,662,805	3,547,945
Deposits	2,030	1,769
	<u>4,664,835</u>	<u>3,549,714</u>

(ii) The investments represent the cost of investments together with the investment income received in the year being reported.

(iii) The investment income is calculated, in accordance with an arrangement entered into with the Hong Kong Monetary Authority in 2007, on the basis of the average annual investment return of the Exchange Fund's Investment Portfolio for the past six years or the average annual yield of three-year government bond (replacing the three-year Exchange Fund Notes with effect from 1 January 2016) for the previous year subject to a minimum of zero percent, whichever is the higher. The rate of return for the calendar year 2019 was 2.9% (2018: 4.6%). The annual investment income is receivable on 31 December each year.

## 5. Deposits

These are moneys received from time to time from individuals or organisations for a variety of reasons and are in due course either repayable or transferable for credit to the Fund:

	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
Students	32,045	27,066
Others	149	120
	<u>32,194</u>	<u>27,186</u>

## 6. Applied Fund

This represents the outstanding loans made from the Fund under paragraph 6 of the Resolution.

## 7. Available Fund

This represents funds available for making loans under paragraph 6 of the Resolution.

## 8. Commitments

The commitments under loan schemes operating on revolving and non-revolving bases were as follows:

	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
Approved loans under loan schemes operating on non-revolving basis that were unpaid	1,331,881	1,331,881
Balance of approved loans operating on revolving basis available for granting of new loans	10,813,071	11,199,455
	<u>12,144,952</u>	<u>12,531,336</u>

# Loan Fund

## 9. Receipts

	2020		2019
	Original Estimate \$'000	Actual \$'000	Actual \$'000
Loan repayments			
Housing loans	55,143	33,617	21,920
Education loans	1,768,183	1,881,116	1,960,998
Other loans	289,448	255,564	259,102
	2,112,774	2,170,297	2,242,020
Interest on loans	196,357	180,381	165,951
Investment income			
Investments with the Exchange Fund (Note (i) below)	-	103,153	157,760
Others	-	87	62
	83,000	103,240	157,822
Surcharges on overdue loan repayments	5,738	4,388	5,312
Proceeds from sale of loans	-	-	280,870
Loans written off now recovered	-	506	4
Others	-	15	20
Transfer from General Revenue	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
	3,397,869	3,458,827	3,851,999

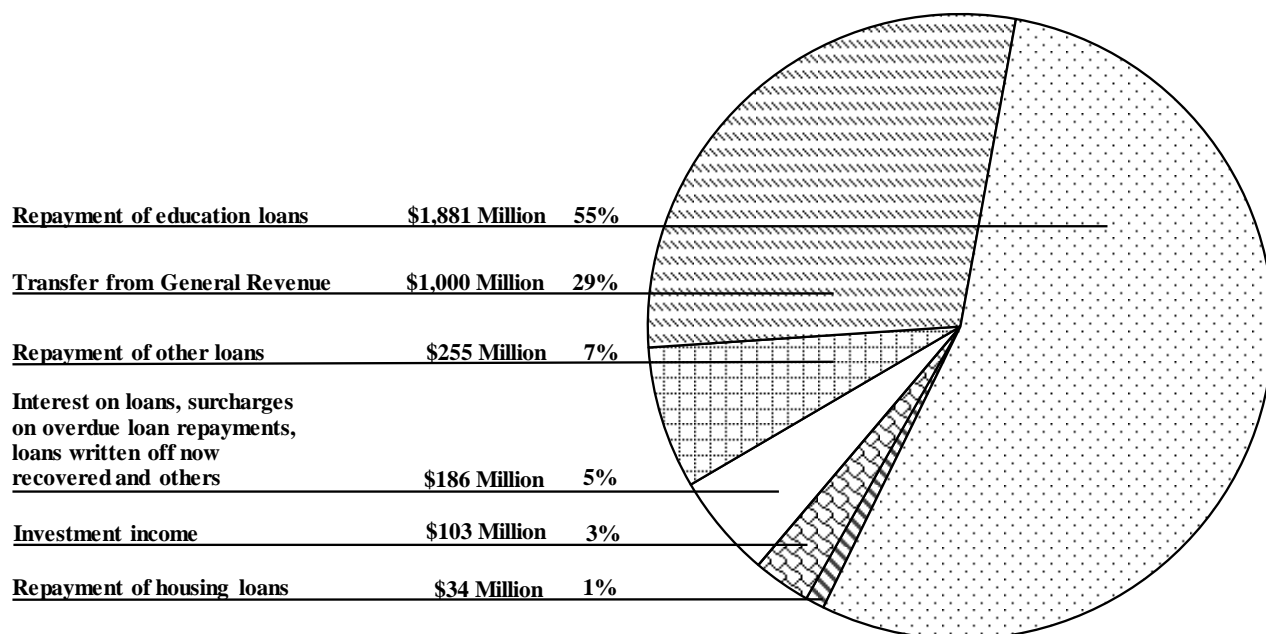
- (i) Pursuant to the Financial Secretary's directives, the investment incomes of the Fund for the calendar years 2014 and 2015 totalling \$168 million (comprising \$52 million for 2014 and \$116 million for 2015), along with the investment incomes on other parts of the fiscal reserves for the two years, were set aside and retained within the Exchange Fund for the Housing Reserve, and not received in the respective financial years 2014-15 and 2015-16. The Housing Reserve was established in December 2014. As explained in the 2015-16 Budget Speech, the Housing Reserve is to provide financial resources to meet the ten-year public housing supply target. The investment income retained within the Exchange Fund earns the same rate of investment return as stipulated in Note 4(iii). The accumulated investment return was \$28 million up to 31 December 2019 (2018: \$22 million), including the investment return for the calendar year 2019 amounting to \$6 million (2018: \$8 million). As announced in the 2019-20 Budget Speech, the Housing Reserve would be brought back to the Government's accounts and recorded as investment income over four financial years from 2019-20 to 2022-23. At the same time, \$82.37 billion (the balance of the Housing Reserve as at 31 December 2018 which included \$190 million from the Fund) was earmarked for public housing development.

During the financial year 2019-20, no amount was brought back from the Housing Reserve to the Fund. As at 31 December 2019, the investment incomes and the accumulated investment return not received and recorded by the Fund and retained for the Housing Reserve totalled \$196 million (2018: \$190 million).



# Loan Fund

## Analysis of Receipts for the year ended 31 March 2020



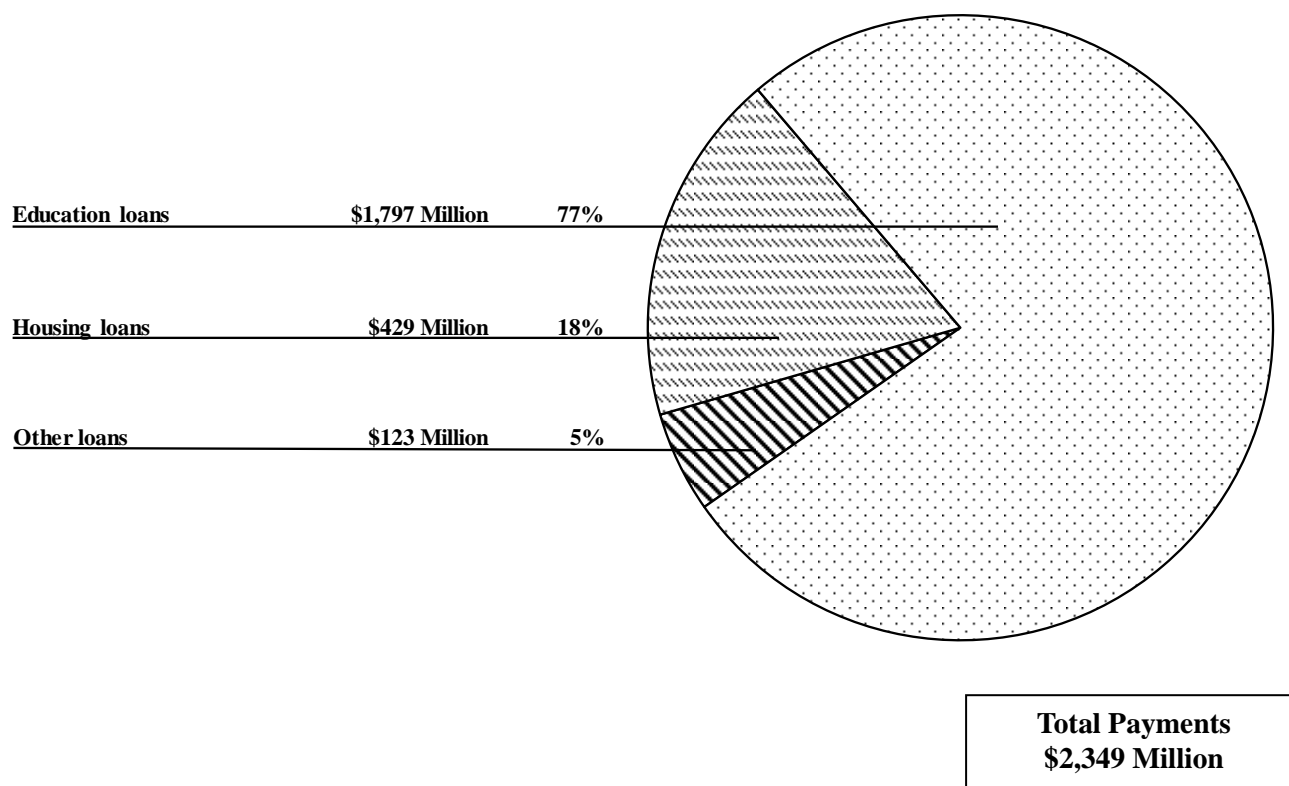
**Total Receipts**  
**\$3,459 Million**

## 10. Payments

	2020		2019
	Original Estimate \$'000	Actual \$'000	Actual \$'000
Loan payments			
Housing loans	591,900	428,544	297,840
Education loans	2,003,772	1,797,122	2,194,076
Other loans	178,015	123,087	1,919,603
	<u>2,773,687</u>	<u>2,348,753</u>	<u>4,411,519</u>

# Loan Fund

## Analysis of Payments for the year ended 31 March 2020



### 11. Other Cash Movements

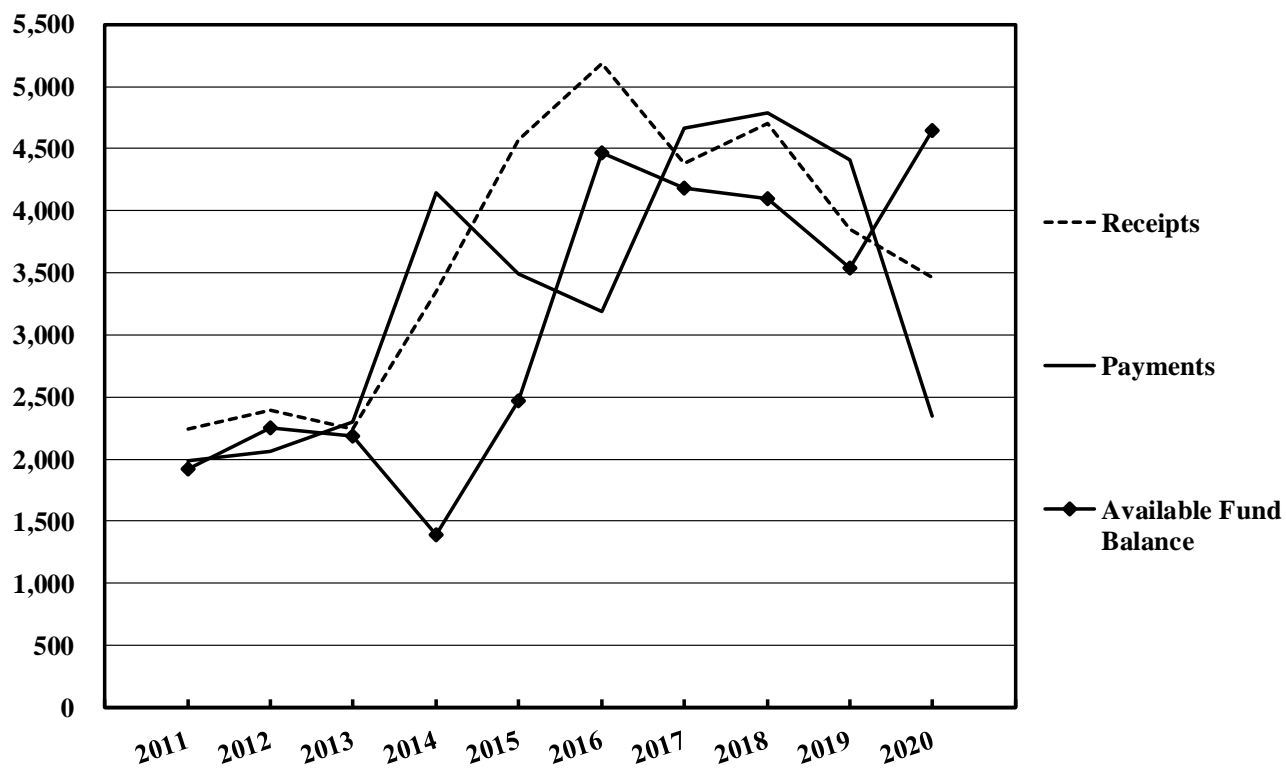
These are cash movements arising from changes in other assets and liabilities:

	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
<b>(Increase)/Reduction in Assets</b>		
Investments with the Exchange Fund	(1,115,121)	555,540
<b>Increase in Liabilities</b>		
Deposits	5,008	3,830
	<b>(1,110,113)</b>	<b>559,370</b>

# Loan Fund

Receipts, Payments and Available Fund Balance for the years ended 31 March 2011 to 2020

\$Million



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