

**Summary of the Minutes of
the 1st Meeting of the Sha Tin District Council (2014 Session)**

The 1st meeting of the Sha Tin District Council (STDC) (2014 session) was held on 23 January 2014. The major issues discussed are summarised below:

Consultation Document on the Methods for Selecting the Chief Executive in 2017 and for Forming the Legislative Council in 2016

2. Secretary for Justice briefed members on the document.
3. Deputy Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (1) said that it was the common aspiration of the Central Authorities and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government to implement universal suffrage for the Chief Executive in 2017. He hoped that in discussing the methods for selecting the Chief Executive in 2017 and for forming the Legislative Council in 2016, members would make reference to the Basic Law and the interpretation of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress.
4. Mr TANG Wing-cheong, seconded by Mr CHENG Cho-kwong, moved the provisional motion below:

“The Sha Tin District Council requests the government to listen to all sectors of society in conducting consultation on constitutional reforms, and implement universal suffrage for the Chief Executive in 2017 in accordance with the Basic Law and the decision of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress.”

The provisional motion above was passed by a vote of 31 in favour, 0 against and 8 abstentions.

5. Mr CHING Cheung-ying, seconded by Mr CHENG Tsuk-man, moved the provisional motion below:

“The Sha Tin District Council requests the Special Administrative Region Government to ensure that there will be no political screening in the nomination mechanism of the 2017 Chief Executive election, and suggests the adoption of a three-pronged approach to the nomination of Chief Executive candidates (i.e. via civic nomination, political party nomination and nomination committee nomination), allowing citizens to elect the Chief Executive by ‘one person, one vote’, thereby achieving genuine universal suffrage.”

STDC vice-chairman Mr PANG Cheung-wai, Thomas, seconded by Mr LEE Kam-ming,

proposed to amend the provisional motion above as follows:

“The Sha Tin District Council requests the Special Administrative Region Government to ensure that the nomination mechanism of the 2017 Chief Executive election is in accordance with the Basic Law and the decision of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, allowing citizens to elect the Chief Executive by ‘one person, one vote’, thereby achieving genuine universal suffrage.”

The amended provisional motion above was passed by a vote of 32 in favour, 0 against and 8 abstentions.

6. Mr YUNG Ming-chau, Michael, seconded by Mr MAK Yun-pui, moved the provisional motion below:

“Regarding the method of forming the Legislative Council in 2016, the Sha Tin District Council requests the Special Administrative Region Government to abolish all Functional Constituency seats, with all these seats being replaced by direct election in geographical constituencies, thereby allowing all citizens to enjoy equal opportunities to elect all Legislative Council members by ‘one person, one vote’.”

The provisional motion above was defeated by a vote of 8 in favour, 29 against and 2 abstentions.

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 21 November 2013

7. Ms WONG Kit-lin proposed to amend paragraph 22(e).

8. The amended minutes were confirmed unanimously.

Visit of the Honourable IP Kwok-him, Member of the Legislative Council (First Functional Constituency, to the Sha Tin District Council

9. Replies of the Honourable IP Kwok-him to members' questions and views on matters related to District Councils were as follows:

(a) Regarding the effective date of the adjusted amount of reimbursement for office setting up expenses, he would urge the government department concerned to clarify the reimbursement arrangements for office relocation during the current District Council term.

(b) Medical allowance was subject to duty for both the Legislative Council

(LegCo) and District Councils (DCs).

- (c) LegCo members might claim reimbursement for expenses on information technology equipment and official duty visit. He would strive for resources for reimbursement of the above expenses for DC members.
- (d) Regarding medical insurance, if life insurance and rebates were included, members might request the insurance company to list out the insurance premiums of these items.
- (e) He would discuss with the Home Affairs Department whether a flexible and less stringent approach to approval of reimbursement claims could be taken.
- (f) He suggested conducting a review on the scope of reimbursement for miscellaneous expenses, and would consider striving for entertainment allowance for DC members.
- (g) He had been striving for significant increase in the remuneration for DC members in order to attract talents to the DCs.
- (h) Being a listed company, The Link Management Limited (The Link) might not be willing to waive rental fees. He would try to enhance collaboration between The Link and DC members.
- (i) Arrangements for review of remuneration were similar for LegCo members and DC members.
- (j) He would continue to strive for more human resources for the DC secretariats.
- (k) He would continue to strive for more resources for DC members to support district services.

STDC Matters

Signature Projects Scheme (SPS)

10. Replies of Assistant District Officer (Sha Tin) to members' questions and views were as follows:

- (a) Regarding the preparatory work for the SPS, in the first quarter of 2013,

consensus on the direction of the SPS was reached; in the second quarter, the Civil Engineering and Development Department agreed to act as the works agent, and the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust agreed to donate a maximum of \$40,000,000; in the third quarter, the study on the project scope was complete; in the fourth quarter, feasibility studies and public engagement exercises were carried out.

(b) “Revitalization of Shing Mun River Promenade” project:

(i) Project scope proposed:

- Installing thematic lighting on the bridges, and giving the bridges a facelift during the day with beautification features. In drawing up the detailed plan for beautification, factors like loading capacity, sightline, maintenance and light pollution should be taken into account.
- Resurfacing of the jogging trails/walk trails with material similar to that of cycle tracks, and provision of milestones and map boards to guide visitors the way to the facilities of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department.
- Identifying suitable points and conducting site preparation for display facilities, as well as allowing flexibility in the display of various kinds of features, such as tying in with community involvement activities and district minor works.

(ii) Regarding the suggestion of building a wooden bridge, a thorough feasibility study was necessary, taking into account environmental, technical and legal factors.

(iii) The existing Main Plaza of Sha Tin Park was a venue for performances. Regarding the suggestion of providing more performance venues, the residents’ aspiration to retain the tranquility of Shing Mun River had to be taken into account.

(iv) Cross-departmental efforts had been unified in the implementation of the SPS. It was expected that cross-departmental collaboration would continue in the maintenance and repair of facilities in the future.

(c) “Decking of Tai Wai Nullah” project:

- (i) The project scope included barrier-free ramps and associated modifications to existing footpaths/cycle tracks, as well as a multi-purpose football pitch.
 - (ii) The current focus would be on the construction of a football pitch on the decking platform over Tai Wai Nullah. Development of the site of the current football pitch would be dealt with by the relevant department in due course.
- (d) Stage 1 Public Engagement Exercise aimed largely at collecting public views on the conceptual design; Stage 2 Public Engagement Exercise would aim at consulting the public on the specific design, and publicity on this stage of public engagement would be stepped up.
- (e) If the consultant appointment exercise was completed in the first half of this year, the consultant appointed would get the preparatory work rolling in the second half of this year, in the hope of launching Stage 2 Public Engagement Exercise at the end of this year. It was expected that funding application would be submitted to the LegCo in 2015.

11. The Council confirmed in principle the project scope of the SPS and the preparatory work proposed.

Establishment of a Tentative Ceiling for the STDC Expenditure Heads and Estimates in 2014-15

12. The Council endorsed the above paper unanimously.

Updated Member Lists of the STDC Committees

13. The Council endorsed the above paper unanimously.

The STDC to Serve as Supporter of Events

14. The Council unanimously endorsed the STDC serving as supporter of “Love Your Neighbour Carnival” to be held in March 2014, which was organised under the Love Your Neighbour Service Learning Programme of the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Funding Applications for Employment of Contract Staff by the STDC Secretariat

15. A member suggested that additional manpower should be deployed to the STDC secretariat in the long run. District Officer (Sha Tin) said that she would reflect this suggestion to the Home Affairs Department.

16. The Council unanimously endorsed the above paper and the funding applications in Annex III and Annex IV.

Reports of the STDC Committees

17. The Council noted the reports of the District Facilities Management Committee, the Culture, Sports and Community Development Committee, the Education and Welfare Committee, the Development and Housing Committee, the Traffic and Transport Committee, the Health and Environment Committee, and the Finance and General Affairs Committee.

Financial Account of the STDC as at 14 January 2014

18. The Council noted the above paper.

Report of the District Management Committee

19. The Council noted the above paper.

Next Meeting

20. The next meeting would be held at 2:30 pm on 20 March 2014.