

**Summary of the Minutes of
the 4th Meeting of the Sha Tin District Council (2014 Session)**

The 4th meeting of the Sha Tin District Council (STDC) (2014 session) was held on 24 July 2014. The major issues discussed are summarised below:

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 22 May 2014

2. The minutes of the above meeting were confirmed unanimously without amendment.

Land Use Review – Sites Suitable for Conversion for Housing Development in the Short to Medium Term

3. Replies of Under Secretary for Development to members' questions and proposals are summarised below:

- (a) Limited information was provided because the preliminary preparatory work had not yet commenced.
- (b) The target was to reserve around 70% of the 150 sites for public housing development, and the major factors to be considered were location and size. Public housing development normally required larger sites.
- (c) Regarding public housing development on land no. 10 shown in Annex I, the Development Bureau would work out with the Housing Department the timetable and how the project could be implemented in phases.
- (d) Arrangements on supporting facilities would be made in accordance with the established planning standards. Members' views would be referred to the bureaus concerned for follow-up action.
- (e) The Fanling golf court had already been included in the Preliminary Feasibility Study on Developing the New Territories North. The residents in the districts concerned and other District Members would be consulted in due course.
- (f) The rezoning plan was a territory-wide project involving 16 districts, including Sha Tin, and the details would be reported to the District Councils concerned in due course.

- (g) Wan Chai and Yau Tsim Mong were not included in the rezoning plan because both had a high development density, making it difficult to find land available for rezoning.
4. Replies of District Planning Officer/Shu Tin, Tai Po and North to members' questions and proposals are summarised below:
- (a) Local characteristics, land size and development density were essential factors to be considered in deciding whether a site would be used for public or private housing development. For the sake of cost-effectiveness, large-scale site areas available for high-density development would be used for public housing development.
 - (b) The content of the paper was rather simple because the rezoning project was at its preliminary stage. The STDC would be informed of the details of the project in due course.
 - (c) Adequate facilities would be planned to cope with the growing population in Sha Tin and Ma On Shan.
 - (d) An additional 8 000 units would bring about an extra 24 000 population. If there was an increase in residential sites, the planned population would also be increased, and the facilities required would be re-measured.
 - (e) More than 400 representations regarding the three pieces of land in Ma On Shan were received, which would be considered by the Town Planning Board in the second half of this year.
 - (f) The MTR Corporation Limited had no intention of providing extra exits at Tai Shui Hang Station and Hang On Station.

Visit of Commissioner for Labour

5. Commissioner for Labour briefed members on the work of the Labour Department.
6. Replies of Commissioner for Labour to members' questions and proposals are summarised below:
- (a) The Labour Department would distribute application forms of the Work

Incentive Transport Subsidy Scheme to members via the STDC secretariat, and more application forms would be kept at job centres for public access. Streamlining of application procedures should be carefully considered as the use of public fund was involved.

- (b) Because of a decreasing birth rate, labour shortage had become increasingly serious. An increasing education level had led to fierce competition in the job market, and therefore there were university graduates accepting jobs requiring lower qualification.
- (c) After the implementation of statutory minimum wage, hard manual or low-skill jobs had a higher wastage rate. The Labour Department, together with organisations like the Vocational Training Council and the Construction Industry Training Authority, adopted various measures to help employers fill such vacancies.
- (d) The government was considering policies that had a long-term impact on small and medium enterprises, which accounted for about 98% of all enterprises in Hong Kong, including policies on minimum wage, standard working hours and paternity leave.
- (e) Employers should report injuries at work to Commissioner for Labour within the statutory period, otherwise they might be prosecuted. Employees were not required to report injuries at work to their employers within a specific period, but for their own benefit, they were advised to do so expeditiously.
- (f) Labour relations in Hong Kong were generally harmonious. If labour disputes could not be resolved by joint consultation, or the labour legislation was contravened, the Labour Department would intervene and take prosecution action.
- (g) The Youth Employment and Training Programme had about 200,000 participants. Under this programme, vocational training was provided for ethnic minority youth. The Labour Department also implemented various employment programmes for middle-aged people and women.
- (h) To encourage private enterprises to implement flexible working hours, the Labour Department was holding meetings with the Human Resources Managers Clubs of various industries regularly.

- (i) Three days of statutory paternity leave was a starting point, and the government would review the policy one year after implementation.
- (j) Regarding alignment of statutory holidays with general holidays, the government was analysing the views collected by the Census and Statistics Department. The Labour Advisory Board would be consulted in due course.
- (k) The aim of the Work Orientation and Placement Scheme was to encourage employers, through the provision of subsidies, to hire people with disabilities and render assistance and support to them. Before posting up the vacancies received, the Labour Department would ensure that no discriminatory requirements were imposed.

Matters Discussed

Updated Member Lists of the STDC Committees

7. The Council endorsed the above paper unanimously.

The STDC to Serve as Supporter of Events

8. The Council unanimously endorsed the STDC serving as supporter of the “Let's Build Our Hong Kong Dream” campaign organised by the Chinese Gold and Silver Exchange Society Charity Fund held from June 2014 to February 2015.

Funding Applications

Funding Applications of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department for Organising Recreation and Sports Activities from August 2014 to March 2015 in Sha Tin District

9. The Council endorsed the above funding applications unanimously.

Funding Application of the Planning Committee on Festive Lighting in Sha Tin

10. The Council endorsed the above funding application unanimously, and gave special permission for the activity to be completed after 10 February 2015.

Funding Application of the Working Group on Mid-Autumn Festival

11. The Council endorsed the funding application for Sha Tin Mid-Autumn Festival

Celebration Night unanimously.

Motion by Mr CHONG Yiu-kan, Sherman Supporting the Maintenance of “One Country, Two Systems” and the Implementation of Dual Universal Suffrage in Accordance with the Law

12. Mr CHONG Yiu-kan, Sherman moved the motion below:

“The Sha Tin District Council (STDC) supports the maintenance of ‘One Country, Two Systems’ and the election of Chief Executive by universal suffrage through ‘one person, one vote’ according to the law, as well as further promotion of economic development in Hong Kong, and continuous effort in improving the livelihood of Hong Kong people. Furthermore, for the sake of maintaining the stability and prosperity of Hong Kong, the STDC opposes to any violent behavior and illegal activity.”

Seconded by Mr HO Kwok-wah, George, the motion above was passed by a vote of 24 in favour, 1 against and 0 abstention.

Question by Mr TANG Wing-cheong on "Reporting of Corruption to the ICAC"

13. Matters related to Section 30 (Offence to disclose identity, etc. of persons being investigated) of the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance were discussed. Replies of Regional Officer/New Territories East of the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) to members' questions and proposals are summarised below:

- (a) In reporting suspected corruption cases, members of the public were advised to keep a low profile; otherwise, investigation work might be affected.
- (b) Whether disclosing a case before reporting it to the ICAC was in breach of Section 30 of the Ordinance depended on the information being disclosed. Since the establishment of the ICAC, a total of 22 units had been prosecuted, 13 of which were convicted, and the penalties imposed included imprisonment, suspended sentence and fine.
- (c) After investigation, the Operations Review Committee (ORC) would be set up. If there was sufficient evidence, the case would be passed to the Department of Justice, and if not, the case would be closed with the consent of the ORC.
- (d) Anyone wilfully making a false report to mislead ICAC officers was in

breach of Section 13B of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Ordinance, and more than 200 persons were prosecuted in the past.

- (e) The ICAC would continue to conduct various activities to promote the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance. Proposals regarding amendments to the Ordinance would be referred to the Legislative Council for discussion. The essence of the existing legislation was to strike a balance between freedom of expression and the public's right to know, and to ensure that the ICAC's investigation and the reputation of persons being investigated would not be affected.

- (f) The ICAC treated everyone equally and fairly in handling each case.

Reports of the STDC Committees

14. 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 15 July 2014

15. The Council noted the above paper.

Crime Brief of Sha Tin District for the First Half of 2014

16. The Council noted the above paper.

Report of the District Management Committee

17. The Council noted the above paper.

Next Meeting

18. The next meeting would be held at 2:30 pm on 25 September 2014.