

**Summary of the Minutes of
the 1st Meeting of the Sha Tin District Council (2015 Session)**

The 1st meeting of the Sha Tin District Council (STDC) (2015 session) was held on 22 January 2015. The major issues discussed are summarised below:

Consultation Document on the Method for Selecting the Chief Executive by Universal Suffrage

2. Secretary for Justice briefed members on the document.
3. Replies of Secretary for Justice to members' questions and proposals are summarised below:
 - (a) He looked forward to a rational and pragmatic approach to the pursuit of democracy built upon respect for freedom and human rights.
 - (b) Regarding the framework issue, the Basic Law is the legal basis of Hong Kong's universal suffrage and constitutional development, and therefore the focus of discussion should be on whether the implementation of universal suffrage complied with the Basic Law.
 - (c) Regarding the nomination procedure for Chief Executive, the government could explore the enhancement of transparency and competitiveness, and provide open platforms such as television forums for persons intending to run in the Chief Executive election.
 - (d) Most members did not want Hong Kong's constitutional reform to stay stagnant, and he hoped that this message could be conveyed to Legislative Council members via various channels.
4. STDC vice-chairman Mr PANG Cheung-wai, Thomas, seconded by Mr PUN Kwok-shan, moved the provisional motion below:

“The Council supports the implementation of 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, which allows 5-million eligible electors of Hong Kong to elect the Chief Executive by ‘one person, one vote’ in 2017. Therefore, the STDC calls for active participation of all sectors of society in the second round consultation exercise for political reform, and urges the Legislative

Council to endorse the political reform proposal, so that Hong Kong could take a major step forward in its constitutional development.”

The provisional motion above was passed by a vote of 32 in favour, 5 against and 0 abstention.

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 20 November 2014

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

Matters Discussed

Signature Project Scheme (SPS)

6. Assistant District Office (Sha Tin) and Deputy Project Manager of Black & Veatch Hong Kong Limited briefed members on the Sha Tin District SPS projects.

7. Replies of Assistant District Office (Sha Tin) to members’ questions and proposals are summarised below:

- (a) The Sha Tin District SPS focused on projects with relatively large-scale works elements. Regarding facilities that raised concern among members, the Sha Tin District Office (STDO) would take follow-up action through the STDO’s conventional public works programmes and district minor works programmes.
- (b) Regarding the “Decking of Tai Wai Nullah in Sha Tin” project, a multi-purpose soccer pitch would be built on the deck. To facilitate a more flexible use of the deck, a movable spectator stand with a simple cover would be provided. The pitch nearby would continue to be open for public use.
- (c) Regarding the “Revitalisation of Shing Mun River Promenade near Sha Tin Town Centre” project, computer-controlled lighting systems would be installed and light emitting diodes would be used to save energy. The switch-on time, luminosity, colour and blinking effect of the lighting systems could be adjusted according to circumstances. To harmonise with the tranquil environment, soft-tone colours were proposed.
- (d) As people would go jogging along the shores of Shing Mun River, mileage tiles would be installed on the footpath of each side of the river.

- (e) The STDO had been coordinating with relevant government departments regarding the management and maintenance of the facilities upon completion of the two projects. The operational and maintenance expenses of the facilities would not be included in the budget for the Sha Tin District SPS projects. Once the detailed design and estimated recurrent expenditure were finalised, the STDO would discuss the arrangements for recurrent expenditure with the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau.
8. Project Manager of Black & Veatch Hong Kong Limited added that:
- (a) The loading capacity and wind load of the bridges would be reviewed at the design stage on the basis of the as-built drawings of the bridges.
 - (b) The bridge surface would be covered with ceramic parquet tiles, and an appropriate gradient would be created to prevent accumulation of stagnant water.
9. Senior Engineer/4 of the New Territories East Development Office, Civil Engineering and Development Department added that:
- (a) Ceramic parquet tiles were easier to maintain and would not accumulate stagnant water, not to mention the creation of a Chinese-garden ambience.
 - (b) Regarding the boardwalk on the river bank, there would be spatial and level variation, with the cycle track and the promenade footpath being separated by shrubs, and long benches would be provided for visitors to take a rest.
 - (c) The Highways Department would be responsible for the maintenance of the boardwalk on the river bank.
10. District Office (Sha Tin) added that:
- (a) The Sha Tin District SPS and the STDO's conventional public works programmes could produce a synergy effect, as in the case of refurbishment of Lek Yuen Bridge.
 - (b) She hoped that when taking follow-up actions on the locations of feature showcases and other facilities in the future, the District Management Committee would consider the conditions outside Sha Tin Park. She invited members to express their views on the content of the display boards.

- (c) She believed that the Planning Committee on Festive Lighting in Sha Tin would integrate the annual festive lighting with the lighting systems installed under the SPS, so as to lower the cost and achieve effective use of resources.
- (d) She believed that the “Decking of Tai Wai Nullah in Sha Tin” project would help relieve the shortage of recreational and sport facilities in Tai Wai.
- (e) Upon endorsement of the detailed design by the STDC, it was expected that funding approval from the Legislative Council would be sought in mid-2015.

11. The Chairman concluded by announcing that the STDC supported the detailed design for the Sha Tin District SPS projects as well as the forthcoming steps to be taken.

Establishment of a Tentative Ceiling for the Sha Tin District Council Expenditure Heads and Estimates in 2015-16

12. A member hoped that the subsidy for cultural activities would be increased. District Officer (Sha Tin) explained the usage of the fund for cultural activities and that for recreational and sport activities, and said that inflation had to be taken into account in making any adjustment.

13. Another member enquired if the Home Affairs Department would increase the manpower of the STDC secretariat so as to transfer the expenditure on contract staff to another expenditure head. District Officer (Sha Tin) responded by saying that because of limited resources and based on the priorities for deployment of resources, increase of manpower of the secretariat would not be possible in the coming year.

14. The Council endorsed the above paper unanimously.

The STDC to Serve as Event Supporter

15. The Council unanimously endorsed the STDC serving as supporter of “Education & Careers Expo 2015” organised by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council.

Funding Applications for Employment of Contract Staff by the Sha Tin District Council Secretariat

16. The Council endorsed the above paper unanimously.

Information Items

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 13 January 2015

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 26 March 2015.