

**Summary of the Minutes of
the 3rd Meeting of the Sha Tin District Council (2015 Session)**

The 3rd meeting of the Sha Tin District Council (STDC) (2015 session) was held on 21 May 2015. The major issues discussed are summarised below:

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 26 March 2015

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

Visit of Acting Director of Home Affairs

3. Acting Director of Home Affairs briefed members on the work of the Home Affairs Department (HAD).

4. Replies of Acting Director of Home Affairs to members' questions and proposals are summarised below:

- (a) The government had launched publicity activities to encourage more eligible persons to register as voters. Eligible persons were reminded to submit their applications for voter registration by July 2. Letters urging voters to update their registration particulars had been sent out.

- (b) Building Management

- (i) To improve the quality of property-management companies and practitioners, the HAD introduced a bill to the Legislative Council last year, proposing to establish a licensing regime to regulate the property-management industry.
- (ii) After extensive consultations, amendments to the Building Management Ordinance (Cap. 344) were proposed with a view to improving building management in Hong Kong, but it took time to amend the law.
- (iii) The HAD liaised with various government departments in the combat against bid-rigging involving building maintenance works, and legal actions were taken against some bid-rigging cases, showing that the government was determined to clamp down on bid-rigging and was capable of doing so.

- (iv) He encouraged more incorporated owners or property owners to join the “AP Easy” Building Maintenance Advisory Service Scheme, which aimed to render assistance in the implementation of building maintenance works.
- (c) Remuneration Package for Members of the District Councils
 - (i) Enhancement measures had been taken, such as allowing surplus from Operating Expenses Reimbursement (OER) entitlement in one calendar year to roll over to the following year until the end of a District Council term, and exercising discretion to allow submission of application for reimbursement of expenses in one calendar year before the 28th or 29th of February of the following year.
 - (ii) Regarding Setting-up Expenses Reimbursement, re-elected members who had moved their ward offices to new locations in or after January 2014 would be eligible for 100% of the expenses reimbursement. As for re-elected members who had not moved their ward offices, the HAD was considering reasonably increasing the amount by exercising its discretion.
 - (iii) To enable a more flexible use of the OER, the HAD was considering allowing members to apply for reimbursement of the amount spent on procurement of equipment necessary for setting up a ward office, as long as it did not exceed the OER ceiling.
- (d) The HAD would follow up on nuisances caused by singing and dancing along Shing Mun River. There were similar problems in other districts, such as Tuen Mun and Kowloon City. The problem in Kowloon City had been ameliorated after enforcement action was taken.
- (e) Funding approvals for three Signature Project Scheme (SPS) projects had been granted, and more than ten SPS projects were pending scrutiny by the Legislative Council.
- (f) Sha Tin had 12 community halls, and the number was the greatest among the 18 districts. Upon completion of the project in Area 14B, the number of community halls in Sha Tin would be increased to 13. The HAD would try to construct more community halls and enhance the community hall facilities.

- (g) While expediting the progress of district minor works programmes, the HAD had to ensure effective use of public funds. To step up regulation and monitoring of district minor works programmes, the HAD exercised close supervision over consultants' performance as well as increased manpower.
- (h) Regarding promotion of district arts and culture, the HAD was provided with an additional \$20.8 million per annum for five consecutive years starting from this financial year. The HAD would continue to strive for more resources.

5. Mr LAW Kwong-keung, seconded by Mr CHENG Cho-kwong, MH, moved the provisional motion below:

“Regarding the method currently proposed by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region for selecting the Chief Executive by universal suffrage, the STDC considers that it conforms to the Basic Law and the Decision adopted by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress on 31 August 2014, which is a method that can best meet the interests of various strata and fits in more with the actual circumstances of Hong Kong. The Council once again calls upon different sectors of the community to render active support, and urges the Legislative Council to endorse this option, so that establishment of a democratic government in Hong Kong could genuinely roll forward.”

The provisional motion above was passed by a vote of 27 in favour, 6 against and 0 abstention.

Matters Discussed

2015-2016 Revised Draft Estimates for the STDC

6. The Council endorsed the above paper unanimously.

The STDC to Serve as Event Supporter

7. The Council unanimously endorsed the STDC serving as supporter of two events: “RBC Race for the Kids 2014” and “World No Tobacco Day 2015 cum Sha Tin No Tobacco Carnival”, and authorised the display of the STDC logo on the promotional materials.

Information Items

Reports of the STDC Committees

8. 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.

2014-2015 Account Statement of the STDC

9. Senior Executive Officer (District Council) added that \$970,000 had been granted for replacement of ageing parts of the acoustic system in the STDC conference room, and addition of certain electronic functions was proposed. The replacement works was expected to be implemented from November to December this year. Furthermore, to promote paperless meetings, the STDC secretariat encouraged more members to receive papers and minutes of meetings via email.

10. The Council noted the above paper.

Financial Account of the STDC as at 12 May 2015

11. The Council noted the above paper.

Report of the District Management Committee

12. The Council noted the above paper.

Sha Tin District Police Action Plan for 2015 and Crime Brief for 2014

13. In response to a member's concern over burglary in villages, District Commander (Sha Tin) said that a notification mechanism had been established to expeditiously provide villagers with information on crime prevention and recent crimes, and about 70% of village houses were installed with security cameras to increase the deterrent effect. As for buildings where scaffolds were constructed, the police would step up patrolling, alert the security personnel to keep their eyes open, and intercept suspected persons. Moreover, security cameras and metal detectors would be installed in construction sites. Regarding the newly completed Sui Chuen O Estate, the police would step up patrolling and set up a temporary police reporting centre. In response to a member's concern over disturbances caused to residents in the investigation of the recent murder case in Mei Tin Estate, she said that the police would try to minimise disturbances caused to the public during investigation.

14. The Council noted the above paper.

2015/16 Work Plan of the Sha Tin District Office

15. District Officer (Sha Tin) briefed members on the contents of the paper, which are summarised below:

- (a) The Sha Tin District Office would continue to maintain close communication and collaborate with various government departments, the STDC and local organisations in district administration.
- (b) Regarding the two Signature Project Scheme projects proposed by the STDC, the Sha Tin District Office would continue to render assistance in implementation of the projects and follow up on the funding arrangements with the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust.
- (c) The pilot scheme on enhancement of district administration through District Management Committees launched in Sham Shui Po and Yuen Long would be thoroughly reviewed in August 2015. Extension of this scheme to all 18 districts, including Sha Tin, would be considered depending on the results of the review.
- (d) To promote youth development, the Sha Tin District Youth Programme Committee would launch a short-term work placement scheme, with a view to prompting young people to care about people in need and take on more active roles in serving the community.

16. The Council noted the above paper.

Member Lists of Committees under the Sha Tin District Office

17. The Council noted the above paper.

Next Meeting

18. The next meeting would be held at 2:30 pm on 23 July 2015.