

Sha Tin District Council
Minutes of the 6th Meeting of
the Education and Welfare Committee in 2018

Date : 8 November 2018 (Thursday)
Time : 10:00 am
Venue : Sha Tin District Council Conference Room
 4/F, Sha Tin Government Offices

<u>Present</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Time of joining the meeting</u>	<u>Time of leaving the meeting</u>
Ms LAM Chung-yan (The Chairman)	DC Member	10:00 am	1:24 pm
Mr WONG Fu-sang, Tiger (Vice-Chairman)	”	10:00 am	1:24 pm
Mr HO Hau-cheung, SBS, MH	DC Chairman	10:00 am	1:24 pm
Mr PANG Cheung-wai, Thomas, SBS, JP	DC Vice-Chairman	10:00 am	10:53 am
Mr CHAN Billy Shiu-yeung	DC Member	10:10 am	1:23 pm
Mr CHAN Kwok-keung, James	”	10:24 am	12:45 pm
Ms CHAN Man-kuen	”	10:00 am	1:24 pm
Mr CHAN Nok-hang	”	11:25 am	12:48 pm
Mr CHING Cheung-ying, MH	”	10:00 am	1:24 pm
Mr CHIU Chu-pong, Sunny	”	10:29 am	1:24 pm
Mr CHIU Man-leong	”	10:00 am	12:53 pm
Mr HUI Yui-yu, Rick	”	12:25 pm	1:24 pm
Mr LAI Tsz-yan	”	10:14 am	1:24 pm
Mr LEUNG Ka-fai, Victor	”	10:00 am	12:50 pm
Mr LI Sai-hung	”	10:00 am	1:24 pm
Mr LI Sai-wing	”	10:00 am	12:50 pm
Mr LI Wing-shing, Wilson	”	10:08 am	1:23 pm
Mr MOK Kam-kwai, BBS	”	10:00 am	12:15 pm
Mr NG Kam-hung	”	10:25 am	12:50 pm
Ms PONG Scarlett Oi-lan, BBS, JP	”	10:00 am	1:24 pm
Mr PUN Kwok-shan, MH, JP	”	10:00 am	1:24 pm
Mr TING Tsz-yuen	”	10:08 am	1:24 pm
Mr TONG Hok-leung	”	10:00 am	1:24 pm
Ms TSANG So-lai	”	10:22 am	1:02 pm
Ms TUNG Kin-lei	”	10:00 am	12:54 pm
Mr WAI Hing-cheung	”	10:00 am	1:18 pm
Mr WONG Hok-lai	”	10:17 am	10:45 am
Mr WONG Ka-wing, MH	”	10:00 am	1:00 pm
Ms WONG Ping-fan, Iris	”	10:00 am	12:53 pm
Mr WONG Yue-hon	”	10:00 am	1:24 pm
Mr YAU Man-chun	”	10:17 am	1:03 pm
Mr YIP Wing	”	10:00 am	1:24 pm
Mr YIU Ka-chun, MH	”	10:00 am	1:24 pm
Mr YUNG Ming-chau, Michael	”	10:00 am	1:24 pm
Mr MOK Man-lok, Mannix (Secretary)	Executive Officer (District Council) 1 / Sha Tin District Office		

In Attendance

Ms LAU Yuk-yee, Lydia
 Ms YIP Sau-mei, Joyce
 Ms CHIANG Lam
 Mr CHAN Ping-ching, Roy
 Ms CHAN Yee-chi, Elaine
 Ms CHENG Siu-ling, Katy
 Ms NG Suk-min
 Mr YUEN Chun-kit, Derek

Title

Housing Manager (Tai Po, North and Sha Tin 1) /
 Housing Department
 Chief School Development Officer (Sha Tin) / Education Bureau
 Senior School Development Officer (Sha Tin) 5 / Education Bureau
 Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Shatin) 1 /
 Social Welfare Department
 Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Shatin)2 /
 Social Welfare Department
 Chief Liaison Officer / Sha Tin District Office
 Senior Liaison Officer (East) / Sha Tin District Office
 Senior Executive Officer (District Council) /
 Sha Tin District Office

In Attendance by Invitation

Mrs CHAN NG Ting-ting, Elina
 Ms LEUNG Wing-shan, Magnolia
 Mr LI Ka-lun
 Mr Calvin KWOK
 Mr NG Kwong-kee
 Ms Leung Tun-yu
 Mr SHEA Yan-keung
 Mr PANG Leung-lam
 Mr NG Cheuk-hang
 Ms WONG Fung-ping
 Mr PANG Ping-yiu, Victor
 Mr Horace MAK
 Mr CHENG Chi-wing, Ken
 Ms WONG Hiu-ting, Amanda
 Mr YEUNG Kin-wong

Title

Principal Assistant Secretary (Infrastructure and Research Support) /
 Education Bureau
 Senior Education Officer (School Building) / Education Bureau
 Senior Project Manager 130 / Architectural Services Department
 Senior Architect / Thomas Chow Architects Limited
 Assistant Education Services Secretary (Planning and Development) /
 Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Planning and Development Section
 School Principal /
 Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Shui Chuen O Primary School
 Station Sergeant / Patrol Sub-Unit 4 Commander Shatin Division
 Hong Kong Police Force
 Senior Land Executive/Land Control 1 / Sha Tin District Lands Office
 Senior Land Executive/Land Control / Sha Tin District Lands Office
 Project Manager (School Building)3 / Education Bureau
 Project Manager 153 / Architectural Services Department
 Director / CTA Consultants Limited
 Liaison Officer in-charge (West)1 / Sha Tin District Office
 Liaison Officer (East)3a / Sha Tin District Office
 Senior Health Inspector (Cleansing and Pest Control)1 /
 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Absent

Mr SIU Hin-hong

Title

DC Member (Application for leave of absence received)

Action

The Chairman welcomed members and representatives of government departments to the sixth meeting of the Education and Welfare Committee (EWC) of this year.

Application for Leave of Absence

2. The Chairman said that the Secretariat had received the application for leave of absence in writing from the following member:

Mr SIU Hin-hong

Other reasons

3. Members unanimously approved the application for leave of absence submitted by the member above.

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 13 September 2018

(EWC Minutes 5/2018)

4. Members unanimously confirmed the above minutes.

Matters Arising

Responses of the Relevant Government Departments to Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

(Paper No. EW 30/2018)

5. Mr Michael YUNG said that although the Social Welfare Department (SWD) had provided information on the child care centre in response to the request at the last EWC meeting, the information was not complete and he hoped that the Department could provide more information to facilitate members of the public to contact the relevant agency.

6. Ms Elaine CHAN, Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Shatin)² of the SWD responded that the name of the organisation to which the child care centre affiliated would be supplemented after the meeting.

7. The Chairman asked the Department to submit the information to the Secretariat for distribution to the EWC members.

8. Members unanimously confirmed the above minutes.

[Post-meeting note: The SWD had submitted the relevant supplementary information to the Secretariat for distribution after the meeting.]

Discussion Items

Updated Membership Lists of Working Groups under the Committee

(Paper No. EW 31/2018)

9. Members unanimously endorsed the above paper.

A 30-classroom Primary School at Shui Chuen O, Sha Tin

(Paper No. EW 32/2018)

10. The Chairman welcomed Mrs Elina CHAN, Principal Assistant Secretary (Infrastructure and Research Support), Ms Magnolia LEUNG, Senior Education Officer (School Building), and Ms WONG Fung-ping, Project Manager (School Building)³ of the Education Bureau (EDB); Mr LI Ka-lun, Senior Project Manager 130, and Mr Victor PANG, Project Manager 153 of the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD); Mr Horace MAK, Director of CTA Consultants Limited; Mr Calvin KWOK, Senior Architect of Thomas Chow Architects Limited; Mr NG Kwong-kee, Assistant Education Services Secretary (Planning and Development), Planning and Development Section of Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (TWGHs); and Ms Leung Tun-yu, School Principal of TWGHs Shui Chuen O Primary School

(SCOPS) to the meeting.

11. Mrs Elina CHAN introduced the contents of the paper.

12. The views of Mr Michael YUNG were summarised below:

- (a) SCOPS would be built at the end of Pok Chuen Street. He took photos of the street scene at Pok Chuen Street at 7.30 am this morning. The photos showed that illegal parking at the pavement leading to the primary school was serious and there were even vehicles parked on the pavement. Children going to school had to walk on the pavement and the carriageway to get to the school. He said that when building a primary school, a safe road should be provided to the children to go to school. That was why when the site inspection was conducted with the Bureau on that day, members suggested that the Bureau should study the construction of a lift tower;
- (b) the Bureau should discuss with other departments on how to solve the problem of insufficient parking spaces at Shui Chuen O Estate (SCOE), face up to the situation of illegal parking of various types of vehicles and increase parking spaces in appropriate places. He hoped to support the project because tenant intake of the housing estates in Ma On Shan would start a few years later and he would not want to see any shortage of school places again. However, while supporting the project, he hoped that the Bureau would face up to the relevant issues and provide appropriate crossing facilities for children to go to school;
- (c) the Bureau said that there would be a location inside the campus for 12-metre-long school buses to board and drop off passengers, but there was no such location in the school indicated in the drawing for 12-metre-long school buses for boarding and alighting passengers. He opined that it was possible to slightly change the playground location and the original private car parking spaces to solve the problem for 12-metre-long school buses to board and alight passengers in the campus; and
- (d) he asked whether vertical greening and rooftop greening could be done at school. Many of the schools run by TWGHs more than a decade ago had ceased operation. As an alumnus of TWGHs Wong Fut Nam College, he felt sad and wished very much that the school principal could take forward the development of SCOPS. Especially, TWGHs had held a parent consultation meeting earlier at SCOE, giving parents high hope. He hoped that the school would listen to the opinions so that the school would be able to develop well in the long run.

13. The views of Mr CHING Cheung-ying were summarised below:

- (a) the Bureau did not have a comprehensive planning in the past, resulting a lack of school places such that residents had to go to school in far places. This school premises had obviously come late, and all departments should learn a lesson from it. He agreed that illegal parking could block the road for entering and exiting the school. The Bureau should inspect the environment and then explain to the Sha Tin District Council (STDC) to address the concerns of

members. The Transport Department (TD) should also provide appropriate follow-up response regarding the project;

- (b) he hoped both the school and the departments could still put the school into service four years later, which was in fact already late. The school premises were remote and the road was steep, making it difficult for students to go to school in bad weather. In particular, many grandparents would accompany the students to the school. He had made a strong recommendation to the sponsoring body, saying that the school should arrange shuttle buses to pick up and alight students at Sha Tin Wai and Shui Chuen O to ease the load on public transport. Pui Kiu College was a good example of providing shuttle buses to travel between Tai Wai Station and the school premises; and
- (c) as the school premises was remote, vehicle usage would definitely increase significantly. Space should be put to good use to provide parking area for school staff. In addition, the Bureau needed to use every means to prevent illegal parking. The present situation of the school premises at SCOPS was similar to that of Helen Liang Memorial Secondary School (Shatin) as both were located at the end of the road. In front of the school premises was a roundabout which was often parked fully with vehicles. In building the school, the Bureau should communicate properly with the TD. He asked whether the relevant departments other than the EDB, such as the TD, should be invited to explain to the EWC how to deal with the traffic problems at that location.

14. The views of Mr HO Hau-cheung were summarised below:

- (a) the discussion at this meeting did not seem to be whether to support the building of the primary school by the Bureau, but how to build the school premises faster and better. The EDB should be held responsible for this issue. He remembered that several senior officials, including the Chief Executive, visited SCOE during the construction of the estate. At that time, he himself asked the Bureau what planning the Bureau had about the school, but did not receive a positive response at that time. Now that school places were inadequate, the EDB should learn from this experience. The Bureau had no data about the district and that was a big problem as it could not objectively assess the situation of school places. If no improvement was made, similar problems would still occur in other districts in future;
- (b) he asked whether students living in Shui Chuen O had the priority in admission after the completion of SCOPS. He opined that good policies should be flexible. At present, the education problem of Shui Chuen O had become the focus of Sha Tin District. He did not want to see that complaints about the EDB would be made by parents of Shui Chuen O to the Office of Ombudsman that their children could not study at SCOPS;
- (c) he had discussed with the Planning Department (PlanD) which did not seem to have an independent leading role. Education issues were basically led by the EDB which provided the school places and considered the supporting needs before and after classes; and
- (d) he opined that in the architectural design of SCOPS, some spaces should be

reserved to allow the community to use certain hardware facilities when needed in future.

15. The views of Mr YIU Ka-chun were summarised below:

- (a) with regard to land use in SCOE, there should be sufficient time to deploy in building the supporting facilities more than a decade ago. It was only until now that a primary school would be built. That was not ideal for SCOE and even for Sha Tin residents;
- (b) the same problem happened to the facilities of the SWD at SCOE. There were no youth centres and integrated service centres. It showed that the planning of the estate was not comprehensive enough which was worth reviewing;
- (c) he participated in the inspection arranged by the Bureau. The environment of the school premises was very good, but the arrangements before and after class were not satisfactory. Under the present situation that public transport facilities were not sufficient to meet the demand in the area, it was not enough to just relocate the minibus terminus to the front of SCOPS as a way to solve the problem. Therefore, he and many members had suggested that the school should arrange shuttle buses for the students and staff. In addition, he asked whether there would be other facilities such as elevators in addition to a lift, and whether a covered walkway would be constructed to connect SCOE and the primary school, because students needed to take a steep road and might even have to walk on the carriageway to get to and from the school which was dangerous and toilsome; and
- (d) he asked how the primary school could be integrated into SCOE in the future. As SCOE lacked social welfare facilities, he asked whether the library and study room of the school could be used by residents of SCOE as community facilities, whether the stationing school social worker could provide services to SCOE's residents and whether the SWD could arrange for non-profit organisations (NGOs) to cooperate with the school in providing services to residents. These facilities and services were what SCOE currently lacked.

16. The views of Mr Billy CHAN were summarised below:

- (a) he participated in the school premises inspection arranged by the EDB. He himself had to take 15 minutes to walk to the primary school. School children were exposed to the sun and rain, and had to keep away from vehicles. He was worried that parents might let their children attend for one or two years and would then transfer to other schools, because it was too toilsome for the children to get to and from school in this way. The Bureau should seriously consider how to deal with the traffic problems; and
- (b) the Bureau said that the school had spaces for 7 school buses. However, as the school could accommodate more than 1 000 people, and the school site was remote, there must be a great demand for school buses. He hoped that the school bus fee would be cheap enough to avoid posing burden for parents. The school had a lot of extracurricular activities, and the service frequency of the

school buses must be sufficient to pick up students who participated in the extracurricular activities.

17. The views of Mr Tiger WONG were summarised below:

- (a) it took several years to build a primary school. He hoped that the Bureau would learn a lesson and would not repeat the same mistake in other districts. The Bureau should discuss with other departments on how to solve the traffic problems in the long run, otherwise students outside SCOE might not be willing to enroll as the school premises was remote;
- (b) he asked whether there would be any large-scale transportation arrangements for students and staff other than minibuses and shuttle buses, and whether the school had reserved spaces to cope with the future education demand in the community;
- (c) he hoped that the Bureau would grasp the future population data in order to arrange education facilities to meet social needs; and
- (d) he said he would propose a provisional motion.

18. The views of Ms CHAN Man-kuen were summarised below:

- (a) although the school's environment was good, to the students, going to school was just like hiking, and the heavy schoolbags would add burden to the school children and parents. She hoped that the sponsoring body would seriously look into this matter. Members' suggestions included the construction of covers and railings for the pavement. Although a lot of resources would be required, it would be worth consideration because in the long-run, it would be convenient to both students and residents; and
- (b) the population in the district was increasing, but the overall supporting facilities had not increased simultaneously. She hoped that various government departments would carefully review the situation and draw experience.

19. The views of Mr WAI Hing-cheung were summarised below:

- (a) he asked whether the current policies had guidelines requiring the provision of at least one primary school for school-age children in the public housing estate (PHE) estate during the construction of the estate. If so, he wondered why there was not a primary school in SCOE. In his impression, there was no PHE in Sha Tin District without a primary school. He asked why this happened in SCOE;
- (b) he asked whether there were any PHEs that provided a primary school only a few years after intake, and if so, which PHEs. He did not know which departments should be responsible for the lack of a primary school in SCOE, but if the STDC did not support the construction of the primary school today, the responsibility would rest with the STDC;

- (c) he asked whether the proposed school site was suitable for the construction of the school. If so, why its construction would not be carried out concurrently with the development of the estate. He asked whether there was consideration about building housing at the proposed school site and vacating the area of SCOE to build a school when the estate was developed at that time. The representative from the consultant of ArchSD emphasised in the introduction that the school had a wide and open view. Such description seemed to be more appropriate for residential development rather than for a school. He did not know whether it was because there were many graves in the vicinity, so that housing development was not appropriate at that location at that time;
- (d) both school children and parents had the need for transportation. If traffic was inconvenient, it would pose another burden on parents; and
- (e) there were four schools in Sha Tin which parents were generally reluctant to apply for their children. He did not want to see that this primary school would become the fifth one.

20. The views of Ms Scarlett PONG were summarised below:

- (a) SCOPS was a primary school that came late, and its location and transportation facilities needed to be enhanced. She asked whether there was any way to speed up the progress of the project and complete it as soon as possible because many parents now needed to find schools in other areas; and
- (b) many members reminded the departments to draw experience from this matter. Fo Tan PHE and Home Ownership Scheme flats would start intake in 2019 with an additional tens of thousands of population. The Department had land reserved for the construction of a primary school. She asked the Bureau what planning was in place, what the construction process was, and whether the school could be constructed as early as possible to avoid building a primary school after years of intake like the case of SCOE. In addition, Fo Tan's traffic problems were also worth attention. Fo Tan was an industrial area, and the Bureau needed to study as early as possible to make it easy and safe for students to attend classes in schools in Fo Tan.

21. The views of Mr Wilson LI were summarised below:

- (a) building a primary school only several years after the intake of SCOE was not satisfactory and the EDB must be held responsible for this. He opined that the Bureau should carefully assess the supply and demand of school places in the district in order to grasp the needs of each district. He asked the Bureau what the total number of students in SCOPS was expected to be;
- (b) the school premises was located on the hill. If the children walked to school, it would take 20 minutes, which was rather toilsome. If students' usage of vehicles was high, it would cause serious traffic problems. He asked whether a large number of shuttle buses could be provided to students and staff. School

bus companies were often not too actively involved, as they would choose to run more profitable routes; and

- (c) as parking spaces would be available in the school campus for school buses and private cars, he asked how many vehicles could be accommodated.

22. The views of Mr WONG Yue-hon were summarised below:

- (a) he supported the construction of this school, otherwise school children of Shui Chuen O would not know where to attend school. The EDB's planning was not satisfactory. The Bureau lent the vacant school premises at Pok Hong Estate to the Island School, but failed to provide a school for students of Shui Chuen O. He hoped that the Bureau would plan properly in the future;
- (b) the Bureau should think carefully on site selection for schools in the future. The current site required students to walk up the hill, which was quite toilsome. Tenant intake at SCOE had completed, and the Housing Department (HD) should have grasped data on the number of school children in SCOE, and the Bureau should communicate with the HD. If SCOPS was under-enrolled in the future, he wondered how the school could attract students outside SCOE to study there; and
- (c) with regard to transportation, shuttle buses could be considered, but the departments must seriously consider how to avoid traffic congestion. Moreover, not every student would take the school bus. If many children went to school by private cars, he wondered what the concerned departments would do in respect of transportation, especially the TD, and it should explain properly.

23. The views of Mr Sunny CHIU were summarised below:

- (a) he had participated in the school premises inspection arranged by the Bureau. As a young person he needed to take 15 minutes to walk to the school, which meant it would be quite difficult for school children and parents. He knew that the school would arrange shuttle buses. At present, vehicles were often illegally parked at Pok Chuen Street. He queried whether it would cause traffic congestion when the school term began. He also asked whether the Bureau would consider building a footbridge to connect the housing estate to the school;
- (b) he asked why the school was not built concurrently when the estate was first developed. The Bureau should have mastered the situation of school net places in Sha Tin early on. He wondered why there was a shortage of school places after the tenant intake of SCOE. The present location of SCOPS gave the impression that the Bureau had used the land behind the Shui Chuen O Fresh Water Service Reservoir (SCOFWSR) to build the primary school in an emergent situation; and
- (c) he asked how many students were currently enrolled in Free Methodist Mei Lam Primary School (Mei Lam School), as a resident's child was currently attending Primary One (P1) at Mei Lam School. It was expected that SCOPS would be

completed when that student progressed to Primary Six. He asked whether that student could enroll in SCOPS by that time and what arrangement would be made.

24. The views of Ms Iris WONG were summarised below:

- (a) parents would let their children take the school buses. From 6 am to 7 am, it would be the peak hours to get to the school. Even if they were studying at schools in the school nets in this district, it would take them an hour to arrive at the school, and the school bus fee would be expensive. School buses should not be the only way to get to school, and other modes of transport should be used. Tenant intake would start in Shek Mun Estate in the next few years, bringing an additional population of 10 000-odd residents. When school children in Shek Mun Estate needed to enroll in SCOPS, the distance was not far away but it was worried that the school bus fee would not be low. Perhaps using the MTR Ma On Shan Line (MOS Line) would be cheaper. She also agreed with other members' proposal to set up a boarding and alighting point for school buses at MTR Sha Tin Wai Station to pick up and drop off school children; and
- (b) Shek Mun currently had No. 813 minibus route which mainly served to connect Shek Mun and Shui Chuen O. The current usage rate of this route was low. The Bureau and the TD could consider extending this route to Wo Che Estate and the area around Yuen Wo Road to provide one more choice for students who were not living close to MOS Line stations and to make better use of the route.

25. The views of Mr YAU Man-chun were summarised below:

- (a) the site selection of SCOPS was not ideal. Instead of using the school premises at To Shek Street at the foot of the hill, the land on the hill was used. Since the tenant intake of SCOE three years ago, the lack of parking spaces had caused serious illegal parking problem. Even if the police stepped up patrols, the problem could not be solved. The Development Bureau and the PlanD had no planning. For the past four to five years, he himself had repeatedly reflected this issue of school places at the EWC. At the last meeting, a request was made to start operating SCOPS early, and some people still opposed it;
- (b) regarding the current site selection of the Bureau and how to solve the supporting facilities and traffic problems, he opined that with current technology Pok Chuen Street could be broadened. He asked whether there would be study for the construction of a lift tower or footbridge to connect the estate to the school. If planning was available, there would be a covered walkway. As there was no cover at present, even SCOE residents might have to get to SCOPS by vehicles;
- (c) he asked whether the Bureau would liaise with the SWD to set up a library and a study room for use by the residents of the estate. He hoped that the Bureau would face up to members' views and properly arrange supporting facilities to provide residents of Shui Chuen O with facilities that were currently lacking;

- (d) schools should be set up in response to the actual needs of the community. The Bureau needed to set up Mei Lam School early for school children of Shui Chuen O indicated that the data of the Bureau was different from the actual situation. The Bureau formulated strategies based on the needs for school places across Hong Kong, ignoring conditions in the districts. He asked whether the Bureau could improve the current mechanism. He had reminded the EDB every year that school places were inadequate, but every year the Bureau dealt with the situation only after the summer holiday. Fortunately, tenant intake of the 18 residential blocks of SCOE would take place in phases, otherwise the consequences would be more serious. The Bureau's data was inconsistent with the actual situation, making both the school and parents perplexed; and
- (e) he said that he would propose a provisional motion later.

26. The views of Mr WONG Ka-wing were summarised below:

- (a) he would like to oppose the location for building the school, but in fact, at this moment, there was no room for the STDC to object in order to avoid the situation that school children of Shui Chuen O would not have any school to attend. Students needed to walk 15 minutes to get to the school and had to keep away from the illegally parked vehicles. The situation was worrying. He had engaged in education for many years and understood the mentality of parents. He was worried that they might not be willing to let their children enroll in the school, and thus leading to the situation of under enrollment;
- (b) he hoped that the Bureau could play a leading role in the three to four years' period of time prior to the completion of the school, and discuss with different departments including the TD to carefully consider the views mentioned by members so that the school could enroll students smoothly. If the school failed to operate successfully shortly after completion, the Bureau would have to bear the responsibility; and
- (c) parents did not want to have a school with beautiful view, but one that was convenient for their children to get to the class and return home, which would make them feel at ease. Parents generally had little confidence in new schools. If the traffic arrangements to get to and from the school were not satisfactory, school children might transfer to other schools within one to two years. Sha Tin District had many prestigious schools and parents might not be willing to send their children to study on the hill. Moreover, there were many employees in the school. If it was so difficult to get to the school, employing enough staff might be a problem. He hoped that the Bureau would make good preparation before the school commenced operation.

27. The views of Mr NG Kam-hung were summarised below:

- (a) the map showed that the school was at the back of SCOFWSR. He wondered what development SCOFWSR would have in the future, and whether the

machinery inside would affect the operation of the school. He wished to know more about how the SCOFWSR would bring positive value to the school;

- (b) with regard to geographical environment, the school premises were surrounded by hills. He queried whether the site was suitable for the school. If a school was built there, there would be no room for expansion. The site was at an altitude of 300 metres, located in the southeast. He wondered whether the issues of temperature and humidity had been considered, and whether the environment was suitable for students to attend classes; and
- (c) with regard to traffic problems, it was 450 metres from the nearest bus stop to the school, and it took 6 to 10 minutes to reach the school on foot. He asked whether the Bureau would arrange green minibuses for school children to get to the school, if so, what the routeing would be. Vehicle-pedestrian conflicts at Pok Chuen Street might occur. He asked how this problem would be solved.

28. Mr CHIU Man-leong said that although building the school at Shui Chuen O was late, the project still needed to be supported so that students of Shui Chuen O did not need to go to schools in other districts. With regard to traffic problems, shuttle buses should be arranged to connect SCOPS to the MTR station. He also supported the Bureau to build a lift tower to facilitate students to attend classes. As there were a lot of illegally parked vehicles in the area, he hoped that the relevant departments could strive to build a covered walkway with handrails so that students could walk to school easily while preventing vehicles from being parked on the pavement.

29. Mrs Elina CHAN gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) she thanked members for their valuable advice. With regard to school building policy, the PlanD would reserve lands for school use according to the planned population in conducting planning in accordance with the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines. After the land was reserved for school use, the Bureau would examine whether building the school could cope with the long-term education development in the entire district in determining whether and when the school construction works should start;
- (b) land in Hong Kong was precious. There was a better chance now to reserve the land for building school in new PHE development project. As for the land for building school, the Bureau would consider different factors, including population estimates which were regularly updated by the Census and Statistics Department, the school-age population projections compiled by the population distribution projection published by the PlanD, and the availability of school places in the district. The public sector secondary school places were planned according to the overall territory-wide situation, while the planning for primary school places was district-based;
- (c) only after considering a basket of factors could the Bureau decide whether new school premises should be used for setting up a new school or the existing school should be reprovisioned, and when the relevant school building project should be carried out, so that the overall school environment could develop steadily. The Bureau would continue to improve its mechanism to meet the

expectation of society and communicate with the relevant departments so that the relevant school-age population projections could be updated in a timely manner in response to the development of large housing estates and the latest occupation schedule, and explore to decide as soon as possible whether to set up a new school so as to commence the feasibility study of the school building project;

- (d) based on the current population projection of school-aged P1 students, the overall P1 place demand would gradually decline after the peak of the dragon-year effect in the 2018/19 school year. The Bureau had communicated with the education sector and reached a consensus a few years ago to adopt flexible arrangements to meet the transitional demand for school places. The Bureau would continue to liaise closely with the sector to steadily move forward the public school development in meeting the needs of the community;
- (e) P1 place allocation was district-based, and Sha Tin District had three school nets to accommodate the admission for school-age children in Sha Tin District. Although SCOPS was currently operating in the vacant school premises of the former Free Methodist Mei Lam Primary School (Mei Lam School Premises) in Mei Lam Estate, it was still in School Net 91 with half of its students coming from SCOE. In the future, SCOPS could accommodate about 900 students, but could be adjusted according to the situation every year. In the case of Sha Tin District, in the 2018/19 school year, the projected number of school-age children for P1 was 6 200. When the dragon-year effect was over, this number would fall back to about 5 200 in the next five years. The Bureau hoped that the school could develop in the long term to cope with the volatility in the number of school-age children in different years;
- (f) originally there was a school building site located at the hillside, but at the time of planning, the Bureau received feedback from the HD that building the school in the originally reserved land might not be optimal for the overall development of the estate; and not using the land at the back of SCOFWSR to build housing was due to the practice of not constructing high-rise buildings in Hong Kong generally higher than the ridgeline. Hence, the Bureau was finally allocated with the land behind the SCOFWSR to build SCOPS;
- (g) the construction of a 30-classroom primary school generally required 6 200 square metres. The land concerned was fully adequate for the construction of a primary school that met the current school building standards. In the school premises design, the Bureau had been in close contact with the school regarding the direction of school development and reserved space for future development;
- (h) a site at To Shek Street had been reserved for school use, but the PlanD indicated that the site was still in the planning stage and there was the likelihood to rezone the land use, hence the site was temporarily unavailable for use;
- (i) the Bureau was aware that members were concerned about the traffic arrangements for the future operation of SCOPS. The Bureau had discussed traffic arrangements with the relevant government departments and the

sponsoring body, such as extending the routing of the scheduled public light bus and the school bus. With regard to buses, the Bureau had communicated with the TD. The TD said that there was a road restriction regarding the road section from Lok Chuen House to SCOFWSR where vehicles over 8 metres were not allowed to enter. The main reason was that the roundabout in front of SCOFWSR was not wide enough for large vehicles to make U-turn. Although longer than 8 metres, school buses could directly enter the school premises to pick up and drop off students and make U-turn inside the school to leave, hence were not subject to this restriction. Moreover, the school had 8 parking spaces and 15 pick-up and drop-off spaces, which were based on the recommendations under the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines to make the best use of appropriate spaces in the school premises in providing the maximum parking spaces. Regarding views put forth by members at the meeting on traffic issues of SCOE, the Bureau would reflect to the TD after the meeting;

- (j) regarding the proposal by members to construct a lift tower and lifts to connect SCOE and the school, the Bureau would reflect members' suggestions to other departments and discuss its feasibility;
- (k) as to whether other facilities such as a youth centre could be built inside the school premises, she said that school premises were often situated inside a building block three or four decades ago. During that period, issue about school development had been reviewed. In the 1970s and 1980s, it was generally considered that schools should be operated in independent school premises and it might not be suitable for a school and other facilities to be accommodated in the same building;
- (l) the existing policy of the Bureau was to encourage schools to open up their facilities for rent to the public as far as possible in the premises of not affecting school operation. At present, many schools rented out their school halls or playgrounds. The Bureau was aware that TWGHs was also willing to open up facilities for rent for the use by members of the public on the school premises without affecting the school operation;
- (m) as for the land in Fo Tan reserved for school use, although it was expected that the construction of the school could only commence in the fourth quarter of 2021, the Bureau would carry out the preliminary work in advance. School allocation exercise was expected to be carried out by the end of this year and the results of the school allocation exercise would be announced in mid-2019. The Bureau would consult the opinions of the STDC and apply to the Legislative Council for funding in due course. It was expected that the school would be completed in 2024;
- (n) the proposed school premises of Shui Chuen O was expected to apply for funding to the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council in the first quarter of 2019. Although the funding schedule was not under the Bureau's control, the Bureau would try its best to apply to the Legislative Council for funding as early as possible. It was hoped that construction could commence in the third quarter of 2019 and expected to be completed in 2022. The time it required

would be similar to other school projects;

- (o) as far as the Bureau was aware, there had not been any further development plan for the SCOFWSR so far, and no noise would be generated in its daily operations; and
- (p) regarding illegal parking at Pok Chuen Street and the arrangement for scheduled public light bus routeing, the Bureau had been communicating with the TD and the police, requesting that illegal parking should not affect the students after the school came into operation.

30. Mr Calvin KWOK gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) although the SCOFWSR was in front of the school premises, this was beneficial to the architectural design of the school, as the SCOFWSR was 6.8 metres high, classrooms on the first floor of the school would have a view of the green belt on the rooftop of the SCOFWSR and also the country park. As the SCOFWSR was within the area of the Water Supplies Department, the school had no plans at the moment to hold activities for students on the rooftop of the SCOFWSR;
- (b) only the rooms for the administrative departments of the school premises would be facing the SCOFWSR, but trees would be planted in between so as to provide sufficient privacy for the administrative staff;
- (c) the SCOFWSR was located at a high level because its technology relied on water flowing down to supply water to the residents without having the need to rely on too much machinery to operate, so it would not pose too much nuisance to the school; and
- (d) the seven parking spaces shown in the map were all 8 metres long, but it had been confirmed earlier that there was enough space in the school for 12-metre-long vehicles to make U-turn, hence the TD had approved to set up three 12-metre-long parking spaces for the school.

31. NG Kwong-kee gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he thanked members for reminding the traffic problems and citing the example of Pui Kiu College on the day of the inspection. After the on-site inspection, he and the School Principal of SCOPS had visited Pui Kiu College to learn about their arrangement on school buses. According to his understanding, Pui Kiu College would arrange school buses at about 8 am in the morning to pick up students and teachers at Exit A of MTR Tai Wai Station to the school premises. They arranged 5 bus trips with 60-passenger and 20-passenger vehicles. The new school premises of SCOPS could allow school buses to enter, so the school could arrange school buses as needed. The school would closely monitor the needs of students after the start of the school term and would actively consider strengthening the school bus service when necessary;

- (b) the school bus service would be procured by tendering. Generally speaking, the lowest price offer would be awarded to minimise the financial burden on parents. TWGHs had a school bus subsidy scheme that worked well in other schools to help those students in need. Since the resources came from good deeds, granting of the subsidy would be processed relatively cautiously;
- (c) as the new school premises of SCOPS was situated on the hill, the pick-up points for the school buses could be set up at SCOE and Sha Tin Wai. Travelling to and from SCOE would mainly pass through Shui Chuen Au Street and To Shek Street. It seemed that To Shek Street was relatively less busy, so by that time the school buses would use To Shek Street to get to and from the school in order to relieve traffic pressure;
- (d) the EDB had issued circulars to schools to encourage opening facilities to support sports activities. The facilities and staff of the school would be prioritised in taking care the needs of the students. If there was room to help the community, the sponsoring body might consider opening the school facilities as much as possible for renting by outside organisations in order to strengthen the cooperation between the school and the community, such as opening the school hall, activity rooms, classrooms and playground. The sponsoring body would, based on the Bureau's circular, formulate rules for renting the school facilities by external organisations, which would be implemented upon approval by the Board of Governors; and
- (e) the sponsoring body was required to follow the Bureau's guidelines for Primary One Admission and hoped that members would understand.

32. Ms Leung Tun-yu gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) she thanked members for their concern to the school and students. The new school premises of SCOPS would have 30 classrooms, each with approximately 30 students, accounting for a total of approximately 900 students. Although Sha Tin District had a strong demand for school places, it took a lot of effort to run a school, in particular the school was located on the hill and there were many excellent schools in Sha Tin District. SCOPS needed to be a quality school in order to attract students to enroll;
- (b) the Education Division and the Board of Directors of the TWGHs were very supportive of this school. It spent only 8 months to organise the new school at the former site of Mei Lam School. It had also found an excellent teaching team to prepare SCOPS with its own characteristics;
- (c) with regard to curriculum planning, the long-term goals of the school would be taken into account, hoping that the children would have a positive education. The school would have special classrooms, providing general subjects in the morning and featured courses in the afternoon, such as STEM education, discovery learning and civic education, to cultivate students' different interests and to apply the knowledge learned in the morning session;

- (d) since the goal of running the school at Mei Lam School Premises was not only to provide short-term school places, the facilities added to Mei Lam School Premises would be moved to the new school premises of SCOPS. These facilities such as tablets, tables and chairs were not fixed. It was hoped that when the students move to the new school premises of SCOPS, they would not have an unfamiliar feeling; and
- (e) when introducing the school to the public and parents in the district, the school had explained the transition to the new school premises at Shui Chuen O in the future and collected opinions in the hope that the transition would be smooth.

33. The Chairman said that she was now dealing with the provisional motion proposed by Mr Tiger WONG. She did not object to dealing with this provisional motion and asked whether members agree to deal with it.

34. The Chairman said that she did not receive objection from members to deal with this provisional motion, which would be dealt with now.

35. Mr Tiger WONG proposed the provisional motion below:

“Since the completion of Shui Chuen O Primary School failed to coincide with that of Shui Chuen O Estate, students and parents have been inconvenienced and community development undermined. The Education and Welfare Committee of the Sha Tin District Council proposes a motion requesting the Education Bureau and other government departments concerned to provide a primary school at Shui Chuen O based on the community-oriented principle in response to community needs which include:

1. optimising the pedestrian walkway from Shui Chuen O Estate to Shui Chuen O Primary School by providing covers, railings, seating and sufficient lighting;
2. conducting a feasibility study on the provision of an additional elevator tower and an elevator or an escalator connecting the school to Shui Chuen O Estate;
3. free school bus services provided by the Government for students of Shui Chuen O Estate to travel to the school premises in Mei Lam Estate before the completion of Shui Chuen O Primary School;
4. request for the outdoor playground, hall and library of Shui Chuen O Primary School to be made available for community use;
5. suggestion for an inter-departmental study on providing community study rooms and other enhanced community services to cater for the needs of the Shui Chuen O residents and school children;
6. request for free shuttle bus or mini-bus services running between Sha Tin Wai MTR Station and Shui Chuen O Estate provided by the Education Bureau and the school sponsoring body for the convenience of teachers and students.”

Ms LAM Chung-yan seconded the motion.

36. Members unanimously endorsed the provisional motion in paragraph 35.

37. The Chairman said that she was going to deal with the provisional motion proposed by Mr YAU Man-chun. She did not object to dealing with this provisional motion and asked whether members agree to deal with it.

38. The Chairman said that she did not receive any objection from members to deal with this provisional motion, which would be dealt with now.

39. Mr YAU Man-chun proposed the provisional motion below:

“Due to the improper planning for primary school places in Sha Tin District, the primary school is still not yet completed after the start of the intake of Shui Chuen O Estate. There is no school nearby for school children to attend in the district, and consequently the district traffic is under increased pressure. The lack of various types of parking spaces in the Shui Chuen O area has raised the intensity of illegal parking, even with vehicles illegally parked on the pedestrian walkway leading to the proposed Shui Chuen O Primary School. The Education and Welfare Committee of the Sha Tin District Council in principle agrees on the Education Bureau’s plan to provide a 30-classroom primary school in order to increase primary school places in Sha Tin District. However, before the Education Bureau submits its funding application to the Legislative Council, it is essential that the bureau formulate suitable proposals by setting up an inter-departmental working group to solve the following problems and submit the proposals to the Sha Tin District Council for discussion:

1. In response to insufficient parking spaces in the area, find sites to increase all types of parking spaces to properly solve the illegal parking problem in the area.
2. In view of the severity of illegal parking on the pedestrian walkway leading to the proposed primary school and Pok Chuen Street, it is necessary for the Education Bureau to consider providing pedestrian facilities (e.g. a footbridge or an elevator tower) directly connected to the school premises to ensure the safety of prospective students and their parents travelling between school and home.
3. The Education Bureau should keep an eye on the demand for school places of primary and secondary schools in the district, expeditiously commence the projects of providing primary and secondary schools in Sha Tin District, lower the number of cross-district students and reduce additionally allocated school places in the district in order to carry out small class teaching in primary schools in Sha Tin District as soon as possible and enhance teaching quality.
4. It is necessary for the Education Bureau and the Transport Department to study the provision of franchised buses running between Tai Wai and Ma On Shan, and for the school sponsoring bodies to study the provision of shuttle school buses running to and from MTR stations in the vicinity and large-scale public transport interchanges for the convenience of parents and students travelling between the two districts.”

Mr Michael YUNG seconded the motion.

40. Members unanimously endorsed the provisional motion in paragraph 39.
41. Mr CHING Cheung-ying said that he had just asked other departments to follow up the matters such as traffic problems and then report to the EWC. He opined that the EWC should take the initiative to ask the relevant departments to respond to how to deal with the serious traffic problems of SCOE.
42. The Chairman said that if the EDB had made progress in the school building project, the Bureau could arrange a meeting again to make a report. She asked about the opinion of the Bureau.
43. Mrs Elina CHAN responded that if progress was made in the school building project, the permanent representative of the Bureau at the EWC would report to members. With regard to members' hope that the TD would deal with traffic problems outside the school premises, although the Bureau could not give a response on behalf of the TD, members' suggestions would be reflected to the Department.
44. Mr CHING Cheung-ying opined that the EWC should take the initiative to request the relevant departments to give a response on how to address the existing poor traffic problems in SCOE.
45. Mr Michael YUNG thanked members for supporting and endorsing the provisional motion proposed by Mr YAU Man-chun. The motion requested the authorities to set up an inter-departmental working group and must formulate a suitable solution. The Bureau should understand the requests of members. As for whether the EDB should take the initiative in reporting or the EWC should take the initiative to ask the departments to report, he did not have much opinion. He hoped that the Bureau would deal with it seriously and as soon as possible after receiving the provisional motion. Otherwise, after obtaining the funds to build the school premises, the original problems would still be unsolved, while new problems arose. Now as everyone supported the project in principle, the Bureau should account for it to everyone.
46. Mr HO Hau-cheung said two provisional motions were endorsed today, the contents of which all mentioned the matters that other relevant departments should follow up. He opined that the EDB had an unshirkable responsibility, and in order to do a good job in this school building project, it must take a leading role and seriously respond to the relevant requests mentioned in the motions. He did not intend to influence the role of the EWC, however these issues involved different committees but were of the same subject matter. The more appropriate mechanism would be to invite the District Management Committee (DMC) chaired by the District Officer (Sha Tin) to coordinate the relevant departments in dealing with the issues. Of course, he did not object to the EDB taking the initiative to set up an inter-departmental working group. However, since there was an existing mechanism, the DMC should monitor the progress.
47. The Chairman said that the motions just endorsed requested the departments to properly deal with the relevant issues involved in the school building project. The EDB was required to submit a reply on the provisional motions later. The DMC was only participated in by the chairmen of the various committees, and she asked the Bureau to liaise closely with the Sha Tin District Office (STDO) after the meeting, and then follow up how to deal with this issue.

48. Members unanimously endorsed supporting the project for “A 30-classroom Primary School at Shui Chuen O, Sha Tin”.

49. The Chairman announced that the discussion of this agenda item ended.

Question

Question to be Raised by Mr LAI Tsz-yan on the Issue of Street Sleepers in Sha Tin District
(Paper No. EW 33/2018)

50. The views of Mr LAI Tsz-yan were summarised below:

- (a) the paper indicated that it was estimated that there were seven street sleepers hanging out near Yuen Wo Road Sports Centre and around Garden Rivera and Belair Gardens. In the past year, the service units of Social Welfare Department (SWD) had assisted a total of five street sleepers who stayed out at Shing Mun Riverside. He asked whether the five street sleepers who had been assisted were five of the seven street sleepers mentioned above. If so, whether there were only two street sleepers left. The Leisure and Cultural Services Department indicated that there were one to two street sleepers at Wong Uk Garden, but the STDO and the SWD said there was only one street sleeper, and he asked why there was such a difference;
- (b) the reply of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) said that the Department would clear the garbage and waste voluntarily disposed of by the street sleepers and carry out the cleaning work. He asked if the street sleepers indicated that those materials were their properties, how this would be handled, and how to define garbage and properties. He also asked whether the Department would clear the clothes hung on the railings for drying by the street sleepers. If not, whether members of the public could arbitrarily hang bed sheets and clothes on the railings of the streets for drying;
- (c) he asked what would be done if the street sleepers were not present, whether it would be deemed as occupying a public place, or whether it would be necessary to wait for the presence of the street sleepers who would then be asked before the case was handled; and
- (d) the SWD indicated that some of the street sleepers had moved away, but the number of complaints received by the STDO and Sha Tin District Lands Office (STDLO) had risen instead. He asked why such a situation arose. He asked whether the SWD had looked into the reason why street sleepers like to sleep out at Shing Mun Riverside.

51. The Vice-Chairman said that the Chairman would withdraw from the meeting for the moment, and he would temporarily handle the question. During the continuation of questioning session, two members other than the one who raised the question would be allowed to ask questions.

52. Mr WAI Hing-cheung hoped to deal with the issue of who was going to preside over the meeting first. The Chairman was not present, and when she withdrew from the meeting she did not state clearly to members that the meeting would be temporarily presided over by the Vice-Chairman. He was worried that when the Chairman returned, her approach of handling the continuation of questioning would be different from that of the Vice-Chairman.

53. Mr Mannix MOK, Executive Officer (District Council) 1 of the STDO responded that the Chairman had just told him and the Vice-Chairman that she had to withdraw from the meeting for a little while for the washroom and asked the Vice-Chairman to continue to deal with the meeting on her behalf. The Chairman also asked the Vice-Chairman to follow the usual practice in handling further questions.

54. The Chairman returned to the conference room and said she needed to go to the washroom just then. She said that due to limited time, two members other than the one who raised the question would be allowed to ask questions according to the usual practice.

55. The views of Mr PUN Kwok-shan were summarised below:

- (a) there was permanently a female street sleeper opposite MTR Tai Wai Station. He said the 640 hostel places of the SWD generally provided temporary accommodation to street sleepers for a maximum period of six months. He asked where the locations were distributed, how many female hostel places there were, and whether accommodation could be renewed after six months. Nowadays, some people would stay overnight in 24-hour service outlets in a long-term manner. He wondered whether these people could be defined as street sleepers. He asked whether the services of the Department covered such people;
- (b) he asked among the existing street sleepers, how many had received the services of the Department or had resided in the Department's hostels. He observed that sometimes after the street sleepers had left, they still kept their belongings at the dwelling places. He asked how the Department would handle their belongings if the street sleepers chose to move in the Department's hostels; and
- (c) he expressed his willingness to give the remaining speaking time to Mr WAI Hing-cheung.

56. Mr WAI Hing-cheung thanked Mr PUN Kwok-shan for his suggestion, but he did not want to set this unsatisfactory precedent.

57. The views of Mr Billy CHAN were summarised below:

- (a) the reply of the SWD mentioned about NGOs, and he asked the Secretariat why there were no representatives from the NGOs to attend the meeting;
- (b) the reply of the SWD indicated that a total of five street sleepers sleeping out at Shing Mun Riverside had been assisted, but soon after these individuals had moved out of the street sleeping places, new street sleepers immediately came to occupy these places. He asked what the procedures of the Department were in dealing with these new street sleepers and what the current situation was. The

SWD had indicated that individual street sleepers refused to disclose their personal information. He asked the Department how to handle this situation;

- (c) he agreed that the problem of street sleepers was complicated and he himself did not approve of evicting them, but the street sleepers might cause hygiene problems. When clearing their belongings, the departments did not seem to be able to effectively divide their work. When dealing with street sleepers in Tai Wai earlier, he saw that if the Department staff did not see any street sleepers upon arrival at the site, the case would be difficult to follow up;
- (d) he learned that some items belonged to foreign domestic helpers and were used during their rest days at weekends. He asked the Department how to deal with these items that did not belong to the street sleepers;
- (e) the SWD said that five integrated family service centres in Sha Tin District had been working closely with the Christian Concern for the Homeless Association (CCHA). He enquired about the staff allocation in dealing with the street sleepers, and the number of social workers and the Department staff in the follow up work; and
- (f) he asked among the existing 640 hostel places of the SWD, how many were vacant, and whether the seven street sleepers who were currently dwelling at Shing Mun Riverside had been asked to consider moving in. He also asked whether the Department had considered referring to the practice of the Yaumatei Shelter and building a street sleepers' home in Sha Tin.

58. Mr Roy CHAN, Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Shatin) 1 of the SWD gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) there were currently seven street sleepers under Sand Martin Bridge at Shing Mun Riverside. In the past year, five street sleepers had quitted street sleeping through the efforts of social workers and inter-departmental operations. However, there came five new street sleepers. Most of the street sleepers originally lived in Sha Tin. Many of them were involved in family problems. Some of them had mental health illness. Some even worked in the vicinity during the day. Shing Mun Riverside was indeed a place that many street sleepers preferred, probably because of the favourable geographical factors under the bridge and convenient transportation;
- (b) at present, street sleepers throughout the territory were mostly sleeping out in urban areas. Therefore, the hostels were mostly located in urban areas and there were male hostels and female hostels. After receiving the referrals, including elderly or disabled persons sleeping out in the streets, the Department would arrange for social workers to conduct outreach visits to provide assistance. As long as the street sleepers were willing to move in the hostels, the Department would arrange for hostel places or even provide short-term financial assistance to those in need, hoping to help them bring street sleeping to an end as soon as possible. When contacting the street sleepers, the social workers would also reminded them that as a member of the community, they

should maintain environmental hygiene;

- (c) in the past, some street sleepers were willing to accept the assistance of the Department. Social workers would also contact their family members to deal with family issues. In the past, some cases had made great progress; and
- (d) most street sleepers were willing to provide information to the Department, but there were also individual street sleepers who resisted the Department's contact. The Department would use different methods to contact the street sleepers. For example, after receiving referrals, in addition to sending out social workers for outreach visits, the street sleepers' information would be provided to the CCHA. The integrated teams of the CCHA would also regularly send staff to contact the street sleepers, with about two visits per month. The Department had worked with the CCHA's integrated team, and the integrated team would send out five to six staff members when providing outreach services. If family counselling was needed, the integrated family service centres in the district would also provide assistance. In addition, regarding the female street sleeper who was hanging around outside Tai Wai Station, she had quitted street sleeping after repeated interventions by social workers.

59. Mr YEUNG Kin-wong, Senior Health Inspector (Cleansing and Pest Control)¹ of the FEHD responded that the FEHD mainly cooperated with the STD0, STDLO and Hong Kong Police Force to carry out the joint operations to clear the relevant places. When the Department staff arrived at the scene, they would ask the street sleepers first and their belongings would be cleared after they indicated that they did not want to keep them.

60. Mr PANG Leung-lam, Senior Land Executive/Land Control 1 of the STDLO responded that the STDLO would participate in the inter-departmental joint operations to remove the illegal structures occupying government land in accordance with the Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance (Cap. 28 of the Laws of Hong Kong).

61. Mr SHEA Yan-keung, Station Sergeant/Patrol Sub-Unit 4 Commander Shatin Division of the HKPF responded that the police would participate in the joint operations, mainly to maintain law and order during the operations and to assist other departments in performing their duties.

62. Mr Mannix MOK responded that after receiving replies from the departments on the question, the Secretariat would invite the departments to send representatives to the meeting to respond to the members' continuation question. The Secretariat would not invite NGOs to the meeting. In the event that NGOs were sending representatives to the meeting, it must be proposed or accompanied by representatives of relevant government departments.

63. The Chairman said that if necessary, the departments could follow up individual cases with members after the meeting, and she announced the end of the discussion of this agenda item.

Information Paper

Number of Children Referred to Public Sector Primary and Secondary Schools in Sha Tin District Provided by the Education Bureau

(Paper No. EW 34/2018)

64. Members noted the above paper.

Date of Next Meeting

65. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at 10:00 am on 10 January 2019 (Thursday).

66. The meeting was adjourned at 1:24 pm.

Sha Tin District Council Secretariat

STDC 13/15/35

November 2018