

Sha Tin District Council
Minutes of the 5th Meeting of
the Health and Environment Committee in 2017

Date : 14 September 2017 (Thursday)
Time : 2:30 pm
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>
Mr WONG Yue-hon (Chairman)	DC Member	2:30 pm	6:17 pm
Ms YUE Shin-man (Vice-Chairman)	"	2:30 pm	5:10 pm
Mr HO Hau-cheung, SBS, MH	DC Chairman	3:14 pm	6:00 pm
Mr PANG Cheung-wai, Thomas, SBS, JP	DC Vice-Chairman	2:30 pm	4:02 pm
Mr CHAN Billy Shiu-yeung	DC Member	2:30 pm	4:11 pm
Ms CHAN Man-kuen	"	2:30 pm	5:38 pm
Mr CHAN Nok-hang	"	2:30 pm	4:12 pm
Mr CHENG Tsuk-man	"	2:30 pm	4:32 pm
Mr CHING Cheung-ying, MH	"	2:37 pm	6:17 pm
Mr CHIU Chu-pong, Sunny	"	2:30 pm	4:11 pm
Mr CHIU Man-leong	"	2:30 pm	5:54 pm
Mr HUI Yui-yu, Rick	"	2:30 pm	6:17 pm
Mr LAI Tsz-yan	"	2:58 pm	4:12 pm
Ms LAM Chung-yan	"	2:30 pm	5:01 pm
Mr LEE Chi-wing, Alvin	"	5:17 pm	6:01 pm
Mr LEUNG Ka-fai, Victor	"	2:30 pm	5:39 pm
Mr LI Sai-hung	"	2:46 pm	6:17 pm
Mr LI Sai-wing	"	2:30 pm	3:06 pm
Mr LI Wing-shing, Wilson	"	2:39 pm	6:17 pm
Mr MAK Yun-pui	"	2:30 pm	4:33 pm
Mr MOK Kam-kwai, BBS	"	2:48 pm	3:35 pm
Mr NG Kam-hung	"	2:41 pm	5:15 pm
Ms PONG Scarlett Oi-lan, BBS, JP	"	3:06 pm	5:32 pm
Mr PUN Kwok-shan, MH	"	2:30 pm	5:30 pm
Mr TONG Hok-leung	"	2:30 pm	5:56 pm
Ms TUNG Kin-lei	"	2:30 pm	5:39 pm
Mr WAI Hing-cheung	"	2:30 pm	5:13 pm
Mr WONG Fu-sang, Tiger	"	2:30 pm	6:17 pm
Mr WONG Hok-lai	"	3:10 pm	4:35 pm
Mr WONG Ka-wing, MH	"	2:30 pm	4:01 pm
Ms WONG Ping-fan, Iris	"	2:38 pm	6:17 pm
Mr YAU Man-chun	"	2:30 pm	4:10 pm
Mr YIP Wing	"	2:30 pm	4:16 pm
Mr YIU Ka-chun	"	2:30 pm	5:38 pm
Mr YUNG Ming-chau, Michael	"	2:30 pm	6:17 pm
Mr MOK Man-lok, Mannix (Secretary)	Executive Officer (District Council) 1 / Sha Tin District Office		

In Attendance

Mr WONG Tin-pui, Simon
Mr TSAI Yu-sing, Eric

Mrs TANG FUNG Shuk-yin

Mr CHAU Wai

Ms CHUI Mei-chun

Mr YUEN Chun-kit, Derek

Title

Assistant District Officer / Sha Tin District Office
District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Sha Tin) /
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Senior Housing Manager (Tai Po, North and Sha Tin) 1 /
Housing Department
Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional North) 4 /
Environmental Protection Department
Deputy District Leisure Manager (Sha Tin) 2 /
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Senior Executive Officer (District Council) / Sha Tin District Office

In Attendance by Invitation**Title**

Ms SIU Yuet-yung, Erin

Senior Operations Officer (Environmental Management) /
Civil Aviation Department

Ms CHOW Lai-ngo, Bealer

Operations Officer (Environmental Management) 1 /
Civil Aviation Department

Dr CHEUNG Nai-kwong

Deputy Hospital Chief Executive (Operations) / Chief of Service, Accident and
Emergency Department, Prince of Wales Hospital

Ms YEUNG Sau-ling, Stephanie

Senior Manager (Communications and Community Relations),
Prince of Wales Hospital

Mr CHAN Siu-hung

Land Executive / Land Control 2 (District Lands Office, Sha Tin) /
Lands Department

Absent**Title**

Mr CHAN Kwok-keung, James

DC Member

(Application for leave of absence received)

Mr SIU Hin-hong

”

(”)

Mr TING Tsz-yuen

”

(”)

Ms TSANG So-lai

”

(”)

Action**Welcoming remarks**

The Chairman welcomed members and representatives of government departments to the 5th meeting of the Health and Environment Committee (HEC) this year.

Application for Leave of Absence

2. The Chairman said that the Secretariat of Sha Tin District Council (STDC) had received the applications for leave of absence in writing from the following members:

Mr James CHAN

Official commitment

Mr Alvin LEE

”

Mr SIU Hin-hong

Other reasons

Mr TING Tsz-yuen

Sickness

Ms TSANG So-lai

”

3. Members unanimously endorsed the application for leave of absence submitted by the members above.

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 13 July 2017

(HEC Minutes 4/2017)

4. Members unanimously confirmed the above minutes.

Matters Arising

Responses of Government Departments to Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

(Paper No. HE 45/2017)

5. The views of Mr MAK Yun-pui were summarised below:

- (a) he said that he had mentioned the hygiene problem of the trail on Sha On Street. The representative of District Lands Office / Sha Tin (DLO) called him today, saying that wire mesh had been installed in relevant places and that the problem had been solved. He enquired whether the problem had been solved simply by the installation of wire mesh, and whether any pollution of water source still existed;
- (b) he opined that the most important thing was to prevent residents from entering this place to wash clothes, which would pollute the water source, but the DLO said that they could only install wire mesh. Despite the presence of security guards at the security booth, some people still cut through the wire mesh and enter the place to wash clothes. The outcome was questionable. The person who was arrested for entering this place was a mental patient instead of someone who washed clothes there. Many departments had inspected this place but the problem remained unsolved. He enquired about the ways to prevent residents from entering this place to wash clothes; and
- (c) he hoped that in the future, the DLO could appoint a representative who was able to respond to members' appeals effectively to attend the meeting.

6. The views of Mr CHENG Tsuk-man were summarised below:

- (a) there was a plot of land numbered P40 behind the sewage station on Hang Fai Street, Ma On Shan. Each year, many trees fell after typhoons, and there was also the midge problem. There was a high people flow in this place, but residents had to complain every year before the problems were dealt with. The efficiency of the DLO seemed to be rather low. He suggested that this place be included under the purview of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department. He understood that the process would be lengthy. The DLO should perform its management duties properly during the process; and
- (b) he said that having acting as a DC member for 17 years, he had to mention this problem every year. This place was under the purview of the DLO, and the DLO had the responsibility to manage it. He understood that the DLO did not clean this place every two to three months. He suggested that the DLO should enhance the supervision of the performance of the contractor. If the DLO failed to follow up the problem effectively due to a shortage of manpower, he suggested that the place should be passed to other departments for treatment.

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

- (a) the DLO was duty bound in respect of the management of unallocated land. He understood that different plots of land involved different departments. For example, the land lot at Trunk Road T7 might be partly under the purview of the Drainage Services Department and partly under the purview of the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD). Now that the DLO knew which plot of land was under the purview of which department, he enquired whether the DLO could take the lead and coordinate different departments to hold meetings to deal with the matter; and
- (b) as the Lands Department sold land each year, it was supposed have sufficient funds to deal with problems. However, two slopes on Mui Tsz Lam Road, which were under the purview of the DLO, were in poor maintenance conditions, but the departments said that there were not enough resources. He opined that this was a problem to be addressed.

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

- (a) he had also inspected the land lot at Trunk Road T7 together with relevant departments. He saw that the wire mesh was broken indeed, and it was broken again soon after repair. There would be safety hazard if anyone entered the place to wash clothes. He hoped that the DLO could deal with the matter prudently;
- (b) in his constituency, the wire mesh along the road section between Double Cove and Wu Kai Sha Village needed repair as soon as possible. The road connecting Wu Kai Sha MTR Station to Wu Kai Sha Village ran through a tunnel. Additional street illumination should be set up along this road section. Part of the land in this place was under the purview of the DLO. After he raised the problem to the DLO last year, a gate was set up. However, the lock was gone very soon, and the wire mesh was broken. People could enter and exit the place freely. The departments should address the matter as there might be security problems. There was the mosquito problem as well as a large amount of sundries in the place. He hoped that the departments should follow up the matter as soon as possible. He also hoped that the DLO could act promptly to clean the places under its purview; and
- (c) he opined that anti-mosquito measures, grass cutting and cleaning once every one to three months was far from sufficient, particularly in Lok Wo Sha Lane. He hoped that the DLO could review the frequency of inspection and increase the follow-up efforts.

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

- (a) washing clothes in nullahs and river channels would pollute the river channels. He enquired whether the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) and the Sha Tin District Office (STDO) should intervene and whether the water quality should be tested. If underground water gushed out after a typhoon, people washing clothes would be in danger. Such a circumstance might need to be handled by

the Fire Services Department (FSD) and the Police. He enquired whether the STDO would take the lead to deal with the problem as a whole, and which department would be responsible if someone was injured; and

- (b) he enquired why the EPD only warned instead of prosecuting contractors which dumped wastes.

10. Mr YIP Wing said that he received complaints from residents that there was the mosquito problem on the lawn next to Vista Paradiso. He opined that anti-mosquito measures and grass cutting once every two to three months were insufficient. He hoped that the departments should enhance the efforts in this aspect.

11. Mr YIU Ka-chun agreed to the members' views on the land lots concerned, but if the places mentioned by the members were not within the scope of the matters arising, he hoped that the Chairman could deal with it as appropriate. Otherwise, the remaining agenda could not be dealt with effectively.

12. Mr CHAN Siu-hung, Land Executive / Land Control 2 (DLO) of the Lands Department (LandsD) gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) after the last meeting, the DLO had repaired the wire mesh and arranged a security guard stationed at the site from 7:00 am to 11:00 pm. In the event of trespassing or vandalism, actions such as reporting to the police would be taken. The Police had also arrested a 50-year-old lady. The security guard would repair any wire mesh found broken and clear sundries immediately;
- (b) having checked records, the DLO found that the land related to the project of Trunk Road T7 (including the artificial river channel where residents were found to wash clothes) had been handed over to the CEDD in 2010. He noted that the CEDD and the Highways Department (HyD) were determining the responsibilities of repair and management;
- (c) the DLO noted the problem of people entering the place to wash clothes. If similar circumstances occurred, the security guard would record videos and follow up. Part of this road section was beyond the purview of the DLO. The people who washed clothes entered the place from the road section under the purview of the HyD. Departments including the STDO, the HyD, the DLO and the Police would work on how to prevent people from entering this place to wash clothes;
- (d) in respect of the slopes on Mui Tsz Lam Road and the problem of Wu Kai Sha Road, the members could contact him after the meeting for follow-up;
- (e) indeed, quite some people dumped wastes in the area of Lok Wo Sha Lane. The DLO would send staff to clean the place regularly once every two months. It would also process any complaint received as soon as possible; and
- (f) based on the views of the Tree Management Office, the DLO would cut grass and take anti-mosquito measures in areas within its purview every two to three months. He would pass to relevant groups the members' views on the frequency of grass cutting and anti-mosquito measures.

13. Mr CHAU Wai, Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional North) 4 of the EPD gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he believed that the nullah was a storm-water sewer, and that polluted water would flow into the sea. Actions and law enforcement could be taken in the event of sufficient evidence. Upon receipt of complaints, the EPD would send staff to investigate them; and
- (b) in respect of the construction waste in Lok Wo Sha Lane, some waste might be dumped by relevant sub-contractors of contractors. The EPD had reminded the contractors and would increase the number of inspections.

14. Mr Eric TSAI, District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Sha Tin) of the FEHD, responded that the FEHD would step in and take law enforcement actions if someone dumped refuse in public places. If such places were enclosed, for example, members mentioned that someone entered a certain place to wash clothes, the departments concerned would be responsible.

15. Mr Simon WONG, Assistant District Officer of the STDO, responded that after Mr MAK Yun-pui mentioned the problem of the plot of vacant government land at the last meeting, the STDO contacted the relevant departments to conduct inspections. After inspections, the DLO would follow up and determine the issue of management responsibility, and the STDO would contact the relevant departments to deal with the problem again as required.

16. The Chairman opined that the EPD should strengthen law enforcement if offences were identified. He hoped that the DLO would address such problems seriously.

17. Members noted the above paper.

Discussion Items

Installation of Internet Protocol Cameras at Refuse Dumping Blackspots by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
(Paper No. HE 46/2017)

18. Mr Eric TSAI briefly introduced the paper.

19. The views of Mr Victor LEUNG were summarised below:

- (a) he opined that the plan was good, and that the installation of cameras would have deterrent effect, but this would work only if there were sufficient resources to support the policy. The mere installation of a few cameras would not lead to a desirable outcome. He hoped that the Government would allocate more resources; and
- (b) he remembered that in a community inspection with the staff of the FEHD, faeces were often found at a certain spot. He hoped that the FEHD would take measures, such as installing mobile cameras, to solve the problem.

20. The views of Mr MAK Yun-pui were summarised below:

- (a) earlier, the DLO said to him that there was no plan to install cameras for reasons that it involved the privacy issue, that there were no resources and that such places were not within its purview. He enquired why the FEHD could install cameras. He wanted to know the outcome obtained after the installation, whether it was helpful to law enforcement and whether it had a deterrent effect. He also wanted to know whether suggestions could be made to other departments such as the DLO on the installation of cameras on government land with management and hygiene problems, so as to improve hygiene and ensure the safety of residents;
- (b) he took the opportunity to thank Mr Eric TSAI for his great efforts to deal with hygiene problems in quite some places in Ma On Shan which were not under the purview of the FEHD. He hoped that the FEHD could work with the DLO closely to improve environmental hygiene;
- (c) cameras installed at hygiene blackspots could only have a deterrent effect if they were not used for the purpose of law enforcement. He hoped that the FEHD could try every means to make the cameras helpful to law enforcement, or work with the Police to take law enforcement actions after videos were recorded; and
- (d) besides, a large number of advertisements were posted on the whole Sha On Street, and he hoped that the FEHD could deal with them.

21. Mr Rick HUI enquired why cameras were installed only in a few places and why a review was not conducted till one year later if the installation of cameras obtained a desirable outcome after the pilot run. Many people dumped bulky wastes at the bulky refuse and furniture collection point at Sun Chui Estate. There were often people feeding wild pigs at the trail next to Lung Hang Estate. He suggested that the FEHD should install cameras in these two places and consider allocating more resources to install cameras in various places in the district.

22. The views of Mr CHIU Man-leong were summarised below:

- (a) two to three years ago, the EPD installed cameras at the refuse collection point outside Tai Shui Hang Village, which had reduced the amount of refuse significantly. He could not understand why the EPD removed the cameras despite the desirable outcome obtained; and
- (b) the FEHD installed cameras at two locations only, which was not sufficient. There were quite some hygiene blackspots in Sha Tin District, including the refuse collection point outside Tai Shui Hang Village. He hoped that the FEHD and the EPD could enhance communication and work together to deal with the problem of wastes. He also hoped that the departments could invest more resources to set up refuse collection points at more hygiene blackspots, so as to solve the problem of illegal dumping of construction waste and bulky refuse.

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

- (a) he thanked the FEHD and a number of departments for inspecting Siu Lek Yuen Village in his constituency and take follow-up actions. He supported the installation of cameras. In respect of the review of the outcome, he enquired whether the FEHD would remove the cameras when they found desirable outcome was obtained. If the outcome was desirable, he suggested that the FEHD should install cameras at every refuse collection point because people who dumped refuse would avoid going to places where cameras were installed and dump refuse in places without cameras; and
- (b) he enquired how repairs would be carried out if the cameras were damaged. In some estates such as the refuse collection point at To Shek Village, the amount of refuse had increased significantly. The departments had set up fences at To Shek Village earlier, but they were broken. He hoped that the FEHD would follow up this matter.

24. Mr LAI Tsz-yan was pleased to see that the FEHD had carried out the plan to install cameras. He enquired whether illegal acts such as dumping of construction waste or robbery recorded by the cameras would be passed to other departments for follow-up. He enquired why only two cameras were installed if the outcome of the pilot run was desirable. The problem of refuse pileup opposite Block C of Garden Rivera had existed for a long time. He enquired whether the FEHD would consider installing a camera at this site.

25. Ms TUNG Kin-lei said that previously she suggested that the FEHD should increase the number of mobile cameras. Given the large area of Sha Tin District, merely two cameras were not enough. Cameras should be installed in proportion to the area and population. She could not understand why the previous pilot plan took six months but this pilot run required one year. She opined that a pilot run for one to two months would be sufficient to assess the outcome. She hoped that the FEHD could adjust the plan before the pilot run, increase the number of places of pilot run and set up more mobile cameras.

26. Ms CHAN Man-kuen was pleased to see the implementation of the plan to install cameras. The conditions of the refuse collection point at Siu Lek Yuen Village were unsatisfactory. She hoped that the installation of cameras could improve the conditions. In addition to the deterrent effect of the installation of cameras, she was concerned about how the FEHD would utilise the cameras to assist in law enforcement. She enquired the FEHD how it planned to use the cameras subsequently if the outcome of the pilot plan was satisfactory. She was concerned that the FEHD would remove the cameras if the outcome was satisfactory.

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

- (a) he supported the FEHD's plan, but he could not understand why there were two places only for the pilot plan. He enquired why a one-year period was required for the pilot plan. He believed that a six-month pilot run would be sufficient to assess the outcome. He enquired about the reasons for which these two refuse collection points were selected for the pilot run. He enquired whether the hygiene problem at these two locations was a result of insufficient refuse collection facilities. If that was the case, the problem could be solved by the increase of refuse collection facilities;

- (b) he had inspected Tung Lo Wan Village. There were two rubbish bins at the entrance to the village. Many people dumped refuse next to the rubbish bins. After the rubbish bins were moved away, refuse was still dumped next to them. This example showed that the rubbish bins were the targets for pedestrians to dump refuse. Maybe the FEHD could solve the problem by setting up more rubbish bins. There were rubbish bins outside the home for the aged on Tung Lo Wan Hill Road. Even though additional rubbish bins were provided, they were not yet sufficient. He enquired whether these places were hygiene blackspots; and
- (c) he enquired the FEHD how much construction waste would be regarded as “considerable”. He enquired why the FEHD and the EPD could not work together. The outcome of separate efforts to implement plans and handle wastes would not be as good as that of collaborated efforts.

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

- (a) the EPD had also implemented pilot plans previously, including the installation of additional cameras in Tai Shui Hang. He remembered that the former District Officer of Sha Tin and Mr WONG Kam-sing, Secretary for the Environment, also attended the opening ceremony back then. The installation of cameras obtained desirable outcome, but after the cameras were removed in February 2016, the conditions were restored to the original state and even deteriorated. He opined that cameras should be set up at the refuse collection point at Tai Shui Hang Village;
- (b) the operation of this system was powered by the batteries of vehicles and transmitted video by digital means, but it was not known whether the cameras could record videos clearly at night. According to a report published by the Audit Commission earlier, prosecution could not be instituted because the cameras failed to record number plates clearly. He enquired the FEHD whether there was any improvement in the recording. If not, he was concerned that it would be subject to the criticism of the Audit Commission again. He wanted to know what methods the FEHD had to optimise the procedures of prosecution; and
- (c) he enquired when cameras would be installed at other refuse collection points in Sha Tin District. He enquired the FEHD based on what criteria it decided to install two cameras in Sha Tin District. If two cameras were installed in each district, it would be unfair for Sha Tin which had such a large area. He hoped that the Government could invest more resources to install more cameras in the district. With increased number of prosecutions following the installation of additional cameras, the fines received might be sufficient to cover the operating cost.

29. Mr Sunny CHIU supported this plan of the FEHD. He hoped it could be implemented as soon as possible. He said that many complaints about dumping of construction waste and furniture had been received. He enquired about the quality of video recording of the cameras and whether there was any difference between the quality of recording during the day time and that during the night time. He was concerned that the FEHD would remove the cameras after the plan obtained desirable outcome. In that case, the problem would occur again. He

hoped that the FEHD could consider seriously how to implement this plan.

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

- (a) he supported the FEHD's plan to install cameras at blackspots of refuse dumping. He enquired whether the cameras would be removed if excellent outcome was obtained. He was aware that previous pilot runs in other districts lasted half a year. He enquired why the pilot run in Sha Tin District required one year; and
- (b) in respect of the installation of cameras by the FEHD at Sha Tin Wai Village Refuse Collection Point, he enquired whether it would increase the burden of refuse collection points in the vicinity, such as Tsang Tai Uk Village Refuse Collection Point. He hoped that after a desirable outcome was obtained, the FEHD could maintain the cameras and install cameras in more places.

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

- (a) the FEHD conducted pilot runs in Central & Western District, Sham Shui Po District and Yuen Long District at the end of 2016 and obtained desirable outcomes. He enquired why there were only two places of pilot run and why the pilot period was one year;
- (b) he enquired whether the FEHD had obtained statistics and studied whether the refuse in other places would increase when cameras were installed in a certain place. If people who dumped mud saw the cameras, they would turn to other places. Therefore, he opined that cameras should be installed in all places to obtain a desirable outcome. If there was insufficient financial resources, cameras should be installed district by district to the fullest extent. According to his understanding, the cost of installation of cameras was actually quite low. He enquired why cameras were not install to the fullest extent; and
- (c) he enquired whether the FEHD had instituted any prosecution in the past six months based on the video recorded, and which department was responsible for instituting prosecution.

32. The views of Mr WONG Hok-lai were summarised below:

- (a) the pilot plan had obtained a desirable outcome. He did not understand why the plan in Sha Tin District was still of a pilot nature. If a desirable outcome was obtained in the future, he enquired whether the FEHD would communicate with members of the district before the installation of additional cameras; and
- (b) he enquired whether the FEHD had established a dedicated team responsible for monitoring the cameras and deal with the privacy issue.

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

- (a) the FEHD had made great efforts to cooperate with the EPD in implementing schemes including pre-paid garbage bags and construction waste charging. He

enquired whether the FEHD's pilot plan had taken into account the future implementation of pre-paid garbage bags, for example, how to charge in respect of tenement buildings and villages. He enquired when the pilot plan commenced and ended; and

- (b) he enquired the FEHD how it would deal with anyone that drove a vehicle to dump construction waste at the refuse collection points of villages. There was a wild pig feeding blackspot between King Tin Court and Lung Hang Estate. He enquired whether the FEHD would consider installing cameras in these places.

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

- (a) he supported the FEHD's plan to install cameras at Siu Lek Yuen Village and Sha Tin Wai Village. In the past few years, construction waste was dumped at these two refuse collections points every week. Due to the convenient locations, there was no improvement in the conditions even though the DLO had set up wire mesh. He enquired the FEHD when it would install cameras and whether it would maintain the cameras after a desirable outcome was obtained; and
- (b) the refuse collection point at the entrance to Tsang Tai Uk Village was also a blackspot of illegal dumping of bulky furniture. He enquired how much the installation of cameras would cost and whether the number of cameras could be increased. Moreover, in addition to refuse blackspots, he enquired whether the FEHD would consider installing cameras at blackspots of wild pigeon feeding such as Sha Kok Estate.

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

- (a) she believed that everyone had no objection to the installation of cameras at refuse blackspots, but she hoped that the FEHD could provide more information, including how the FEHD would utilise cameras for the purpose of supervision, whether there would be a dedicated team responsible for monitoring, how many staff members would be appointed to participate in this plan, whether any difficulty was encountered during the implementation of the pilot plan and could be used as a reference, what would be deemed as the desirable outcome, and why these locations were selected for the pilot run; and
- (b) residents would turn to refuse collection points without cameras to dump refuse. She enquired the FEHD whether it had considered the whole district for the pilot run, why the pilot run in Sha Tin District required one year, whether the cameras would be removed or maintained after the completion of the pilot run, and whether additional locations was planned for the pilot run.

36. Mr Tiger WONG supported the installation of cameras. He enquired how the FEHD would monitor, whether videos would be stored in discs or other media, and how the cameras were powered. He enquired about the additional manpower required for this plan. Moreover, he enquired whether there was any difficulty in using the videos recorded by the cameras to assist in law enforcement.

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

- (a) she supported the installation of Internet protocol cameras at blackspots, but she opined that in the selection of locations for the installation of cameras, the severity of problem at such locations should also be considered in addition to whether they were blackspots. For example, there was a pileup of highly hazardous industrial refuse exposed to sunlight at Fo Tan Village. Though the FEHD would move the refuse to a place sheltered from sunlight, there was still the possibility of explosion and adverse impact on residents' health. She was disappointed about the FEHD not installing cameras at Fo Tan Village. She could not understand why only two cameras would be installed though Sha Tin District had the largest population, and why the pilot run required one year;
- (b) she enquired what the penalties were for illegal dumping of refuse, and whether the persistence of such acts, if any, was due to lenient penalties during past pilot run. The FEHD instituted more than 70 prosecutions during the period of the pilot plan. She hoped that the FEHD could state the penalties; and
- (c) she enquired what difficulties were encountered during the pilot run, and how the FEHD would make improvement. Now that the cost of installation of cameras was not high, whether the FEHD did not increase the number of cameras out of the concern about the shortage of manpower. She enquired whether the FEHD had data of refuse blackspots to enable everyone to know why the FEHD selected these two locations for the installation of cameras.

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

- (a) he supported the FEHD's plan. He opined that the FEHD should pay attention to the privacy issue and deal with the angle and range of installation prudently;
- (b) in respect of the refuse pileup, he hoped that the FEHD could reinforce law enforcement when publicity and education failed to eradicate the problem. He did not quite believe that the failure to increase the number of cameras was due to the problem of resources. There were quite some construction waste and bulky furniture in Lok Wo Sha Lane. A fire even occurred half a year ago. It was a refuse blackspot. The EPD was also aware of the circumstance, but had not instituted any prosecution. He hoped that the FEHD could consider installing more cameras and enhance law enforcement; and
- (c) he hoped that the FEHD could elaborate the penalties in respect of cases prosecuted based on the videos recorded by the cameras.

39. The views of the Chairman were summarised below:

- (a) he said that the Food and Health Bureau would hold meetings with the chairmen and vice-chairmen of the HECs of the 18 districts regularly. He had said to the former Secretary for Food and Health that two cameras were not sufficient given the vast area of Sha Tin. The former Secretary responded that the number of cameras was relatively small because the plan was at a pilot

stage. He said that he would continue to relay views to the current Secretary;

- (b) he was aware that the EPD installed cameras at blackspots to capture the number plate of any person who dumped refuse illegally, and that the owner of the vehicle would receive a writ of summons. If the owner did not admit, the procedures of prosecution would be rather complicated. He enquired how the FEHD actually took law enforcement actions, and whether the videos recorded by the cameras could be used as evidence; if they could not, what outcome could be obtained, and whether the FEHD could consider amending the laws to allow the videos to be used as evidence. Otherwise, the outcome would not be satisfactory; and
- (c) he opined that the STDO also had the responsibility to assist in relaying problems related to resources, and that the Government should allocate resources in proportion to the area and population of each district, including increasing manpower for the DC.

40. Mr Eric TSAI gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the FEHD would carry out the pilot plan in 18 districts at the beginning of 2018. The former Secretary for Food and Health disclosed at a meeting with the chairmen and vice-chairmen of the HECs of the 18 districts that Internet protocol cameras would be installed at two selected locations in each district. Currently, many refuse collection points had no power supply. Redeployment would be required at the time of installation of Internet Protocol cameras. The FEHD would continue to seek resources;
- (b) the FEHD took multiple measures to deal with the refuse problem, including education, publicity, increased manpower to handle refuse and enhanced prosecution;
- (c) after videos were recorded, the staff of the FEHD would view the videos. If any number plate was captured, prosecution against the registered vehicle owner would be considered. According to current judicial procedures, if the appearance of suspicious persons was captured, the videos could only be used as hearsay evidence but could not be produced in evidence. The staff of the FEHD would gather information from the videos and take actions to institute prosecution on the spot. In respect of construction waste, if any illegal act was spotted, the FEHD would notify the EPD to take law enforcement actions;
- (d) in respect of manpower, there was no plan to increase manpower for the time being. The existing resources of each district would be allocated to view videos and arrange raids. There were a few task forces under the headquarters, which could be arranged to assist in law enforcement actions when required;
- (e) in respect of mobile cameras, the plan for the coming year would not include mobile cameras but targeted fixed locations only;
- (f) despite of the limitations of the plan, a pilot run could be carried out before a review would be conducted. The number of prosecutions instituted during the pilot run in three districts in the past was approximately over 70. The FEHD

would note down the locations mentioned by other members and would consider them when more resources were available;

- (g) in respect of the fire extinguishers and gas cylinders dumped next to the refuse collection points, the FEHD would notify the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department and the FSD immediately, and would not remove them before the inspection by these departments. The FEHD would take note of the locations they were placed and avoid exposure to sunlight where possible. In relation to the costs of installation of cameras in the 18 districts, the headquarters would proceed by means of tender. There were no figures of costs for the time being;
- (h) even if there were no cameras, the FEHD would still arrange staff to conduct inspections and take prosecution actions, for example, at the refuse collection points at Fo Tan Village, Tai Shui Hang Village and Shan Mei Street;
- (i) the FEHD would share the experience in using cameras with other departments;
- (j) he said that the information related to Paragraph 8 of the paper would be submitted after the meeting; and
- (k) in respect of penalties, the penalty on each case was decided by the judge, but he might try to obtain information about the penalties on the over 70 cases.

41. The Chairman asked the FEHD to submit relevant information after the meeting.

Meeting Schedule of the Committee for 2018
(Paper No. HE 47/2017)

42. Members noted the above paper.

Questions

Question to be Raised by Mr PANG Cheung-wai, Thomas on Noise Nuisance Caused by Planes Flying over Sha Tin
(Paper No. HE 48/2017)

43. The Chairman said that he had just received Mr Thomas PANG's power of attorney to appoint Mr Tiger WONG to ask questions on his behalf. He agreed to the power of attorney and asked Mr Tiger WONG to ask further questions.

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

- (a) on 16 August and 2 September this year, two very large planes flew over Lower Shing Mun Reservoir, emitting enormous noise. He hoped to know the response from the Civil Aviation Department (CAD);
- (b) the paper showed that according to the noise data recorded in Fo Tan area during the period from 13 to 22 June 2016, there were 12 occurrences of noise between 70.0 dB to 74.9 dB from 11 pm to 7:00 am the next day; according to

the noise data recorded at Kwong Lam Court during the period from 19 Jun to 11 July 2017, there were two occurrences of noise between 70.0 dB to 74.9 dB from 11 pm to 7:00 am the next day. He enquired what reason caused the significant decrease in the number of occurrences;

- (c) he understood that the CAD would take noise reduction measure for aircraft between midnight and 7:00 am. Given the high population density in Hong Kong, he enquired whether the CAD could extend the hours for the measure to 10 pm to 9 am; and
- (d) the CAD said that in order to enhance this noise reduction measure, it ceased to allow aircraft of airlines not compliant with the noise standards in Chapter 3 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation to take off or land in Hong Kong with effect from 2014. He enquired what the outcome was and whether the noise standards could be further raised.

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

- (a) he had read the publications issued by Cathay Pacific, which said that there was a flight path at Park Island for aircraft to take off and land. Special devices were required for an aircraft to use this flight path, which was being tested. If aircraft used this flight path, the journey distance would be shortened and the impact on Sha Tin and Kwai Tsing would be reduced. He enquired whether the CAD indeed had this flight path tested, whether it was for use by specific aircraft only, whether there were special requirements on pilots, and whether training was required before use. If no answers could be given now, he hoped the CAD could respond after the meeting;
- (b) after the completion of the third runway, the number of aircraft flying over per hour would increase. The CAD had measured the noise in the vicinity of Chevalier Garden, recording a reading of approximately 70 dB. He enquired the CAD whether it would consider putting the new flight path in operation as soon as possible;
- (c) in his constituency, there was an overnight airport express line whose number of runs kept increasing. Therefore, he knew that the number of passengers taking flights at night and early morning had increased, possibly because the flights of low-cost carriers were mainly scheduled to take off at night and in the early morning. In such a circumstance, a flight path of less impact should be identified for these flights. Besides, he enquired whether the CAD could provide information of relevant flights by hour;
- (d) there were occasions where the navigation system of the CAD needed to reboot. He enquired whether the CAD would consider replacing the system; and
- (e) members enquired about the problem of aircraft noise which occurred in certain places earlier, and the CAD said that it would follow up such information. He did not understand how the CAD could obtain information about the noise in these places in the past. He enquired the CAD how it would respond if it received such complaints. He enquired whether additional

representative noise monitoring terminals could be set up in Sha Tin.

46. Mr PUN Kwok-shan enquired about how many days with westerlies in a year and where the aircraft noise monitoring terminal in Tai Wai was located.

47. Ms Erin SIU, Senior Operations Officer (Environmental Management) of the CAD gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) regarding the noise problem on 16 August and 2 September this year, she said that she needed to take the information back to the headquarters and examine the records before giving a response;
- (b) given the different dates, times and locations of the collection of aircraft noise data, the noise data recorded in Kwong Lam Court and Fo Tan area were different. As landing flight paths were affected by wind directions, the noise data might vary as a result of different wind directions and different landing flight paths;
- (c) in respect of the noise reduction measure, subject to wind directions, wind speed and flight safety, the CAD would arrange arriving aircraft to land across the sea from the south-western direction between midnight and 7:00 am. This measure aimed to decrease the number of aircraft flying over densely populated areas including Sha Tin, Kwai Tsing and Tsuen Wan. As to whether the hours could be extended, it was subject to factors including flight scheduling, airport operation and air traffic control, and required prudent consideration. She would respond after the meeting;
- (d) with a view to enhancing the noise reduction measure, with effect from 2014, the CAD no longer allowed airlines to schedule aircraft which were marginally compliant with the Chapter 3 noise standards to take off and land. In respect of the outcome, the occurrences of high level noise recorded in 2016 decreased by 74% compared with those in 2011, which was an outstanding outcome;
- (e) the new flight path mentioned by the member was a new flight path which allowed aircraft to reach the airport via West Lamma Channel. Special permission was required for aircraft to use this flight path, so as to ensure that navigation, pilots and operating procedures meet certain requirements. Therefore, not many aircraft used this flight path for the time being. However, it would be further promoted in light of the development of aviation technology and the advancement in the configurations of aircraft. Regarding the information requested by the members, she would relay it to the headquarters and provide such information after the meeting;
- (f) in respect of the third runway, as her group was mainly responsible for matters related to aircraft noise, while the third runway was under the purview of the Airport Authority (AA), she could relay the views to the AA;
- (g) regarding the increase in the number of low-cost flights at night and in the early morning, there were various factors that affected flight scheduling. For example, it depended on the combination of the times of Hong Kong airport

and the destination airports, market need, operation of airlines and flows of shipping. This was not believed to be directly related to whether an airline was low-cost airline;

- (h) in respect of days when there were westerlies, it was mainly summer when there were westerlies in Hong Kong. According to the data, in 2016, the number of flights landed in Hong Kong across the sea from the south-western direction between midnight and 7:00 am subject to weather and safety conditions, namely arrival flights which implemented the noise reduction measure, accounted for 83.7% of all flights landed in Hong Kong during the same hours the whole year. The website of CAD had published the related data for reference; and
- (i) the monitoring terminal in Tai Wai was located at Mei Lam Estate. The CAD had set up 16 aircraft noise monitoring terminals to monitor aircraft noise on a 24-hour basis. The data collected would be used in conjunction with the flight data shown on radar to review the noise level of the relevant aircraft. These data could assist the CAD in processing complaints about aircraft noise. The CAD would upload onto its website the noise data recorded regularly for reference.

48. The Chairman asked the CAD to provide relevant information after the meeting.

Question to be Raised by Mr LEUNG Ka-fai, Victor on the Waiting Time for the Prince of Wales Hospital's Accident & Emergency Service and Evening Out-patient Service
(Paper No. HE 49/2017)

49. The views of Mr Victor LEUNG were summarised below:

- (a) the response in the paper showed that the Hospital Authority (HA) did not value evening out-patient service. Previously, some residents had complained that the waiting time for the Accident and Emergency (A&E) Service of Prince of Wales Hospital (PWH) exceeded three to four hours;
- (b) the paper said that the average waiting time for patients of the “non-urgent” category was 313.8 minutes, or approximately five hours in the evening or late at night. He enquired whether it included the time of treatment;
- (c) the paper said that the severity of illness could be classified into five categories including “critical”, “emergency”, “urgent”, “semi-urgent” and “non-urgent”, of which “non-urgent” patients accounted for 15%. He enquired what the number of “semi-urgent” was and what measures the HA had in place to improve the waiting time for “semi-urgent” and “non-urgent” patients; and
- (d) he suggested increasing evening out-patient service because patients did not know how to distinguish the severity of their own illness, while in the evening, patients could only visit the A&E service. Therefore, the number of patients visiting the A&E service did not decrease despite a price increase. Accordingly, he suggested providing evening out-patient service at Yuen Chau Kok General Out-Patient Clinic (GOPC) to divert patients and reduce the pressure on the A&E service.

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

- (a) in respect of the evening out-patient service, the HA had also mentioned at the last meeting that the quota of patients would be increased to 15 000, of which 8 000 would be in Sha Tin District. She enquired whether some of the quota could be allocated to the evening out-patient service; and
- (b) in the past, she had been lobbying for the provision of evening out-patient service at Yuen Chau Kok GOPC, but her efforts over the years seemed to have failed to persuade the HA. The HA had provided the number of patients served at the two clinics at Lek Yuen Estate and Ma On Shan. She enquired the HA whether it could break down the data to show the number of patients visiting at night, so that the demand for evening out-patient service could be identified. She opined that the primary medical service needed to be improved. She enquired whether the HA had studied the feasibility of providing evening out-patient service at Yuen Chau Kok, and if yes, what limitations resulted in the failure to provide evening out-patient service.

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

- (a) the condition of waiting at the A&E service seemed to be rather grim. The population of Sha Tin was close to 700 000. The A&E service of PWH was under great pressure in New Territories East. He was concerned whether the service could satisfy demand in the future. Ma On Shan had a population of more than 200 000. He enquired whether the provision of A&E service could be considered if needed during the course of planning;
- (b) evening out-patient service was also needed in Ma On Shan. He enquired whether the quota could be increased, whether the opening hours of Ma On Shan Family Medicine Centre could be extended, and whether the size of public and private collaboration in Sha Tin District could be further increased so as to provide service; and
- (c) previously, a resident visited the A&E service for a fish bone stuck in his throat, and waited five to six hours before being treated. He suggested increasing the quota for out-patient service and enhancing evening out-patient service to mitigate the pressure on the A&E service.

52. The Chairman enquired whether patients of “semi-urgent” and “non-urgent” categories had to visit the A&E service, or a GOPC was sufficient to deal with their problems.

53. Dr CHEUNG Nai-kwong, Deputy Hospital Chief Executive (Operations) / Chief of Service, Accident and Emergency Department of PWH gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) in respect of A&E service, the triage system was very important. The provision of A&E service was intended to treat patients in most urgent conditions;
- (b) illnesses were classified into five categories including “critical”, “emergency”,

“urgent”, “semi-urgent” and “non-urgent” based on the severity. Take PWH for example, patients of the “critical” category were certainly treated in the first place. In addition, it was also the aim of the A&E service to treat patients of the “emergency” category and the “urgent” category within 15 minutes and 30 minutes respectively. On average, 300 to 400 people used the A&E service of PWH every day. More than 100 patients fell within the first three categories. That meant patients in the most urgent need had been treated as soon as possible according to the urgency of their conditions;

- (c) a large number of patients of the fourth “semi-urgent” category, more than 200 patients every day, also visited the A&E service of PWH. For this category of patients, whether more treatment was needed depended on the severity of their conditions. Some patients could leave hospital after their wounds were treated. It was difficult to define which patients could receive treatment outside public hospitals because the patients needed to be assessed by the healthcare staff of PWH before the direction of treatment could be determined;
- (d) generally speaking, if a patient did not need a surgery, the direction of treatment would be relatively simple, and theoretically other options could be adopted. He emphasised that a decision could be made only after the outcome of initial treatment was known. The waiting time for patients of the fourth category at PWH was three to four hours on average. The healthcare staff would treat these patients as soon as possible wherever practicable, and would provide them with medicine to stop pain when needed. He encouraged everyone to download “PWH AE Aid”, a mobile phone application which could show the waiting time for patients of the fourth category and the fifth category at PWH and information of private doctors available in the vicinity for the patients’ reference;
- (e) one of the purposes of price increase was to provide patients with other options. However, the A&E service was the safety net of the community. Patients had a place to turn to when they were in an emergency condition. It provided patients with a direction of treatment and played a vital role to the community;
- (f) the waiting time for admission was also an area of concern for the A&E service. PWH had introduced a number of improvement measures in the past more than half a year. Since the end of last year, no patient waited more than 12 hours before being admitted. The majority of patients waited four to five hours before being admitted. PWH would continue to reduce the waiting time for admission of patients through efforts such as adopting a monitoring mechanism, increasing the number of beds and the efforts of the staff;
- (g) in respect of out-patient service, there were four GOPCs in Sha Tin District. The HA was aware of the continuous increase of population. The population of Sha Tin District might exceed 1 million after 2020, while the ageing of population would continue. He emphasised that GOPCs served low-income residents and chronic patients, and that the service capacity had increased significantly with time. In terms of quota, the quota of out-patient service in Sha Tin District had increased by more than 60 000 since 2012. In 2017 to 2018, the quota would further increase by over 10 000 totalling nearly

460 000. In the future, public and private collaboration programmes would be launched to mitigate the pressure on public healthcare;

- (h) in respect of evening out-patient service, currently Lek Yuen GOPC and Ma On Shan Family Medicine Centre provided evening out-patient service. The setup of additional evening out-patient service required the consideration of human resources and supporting facilities. For example, sufficient nurses and dispensers would also be required accordingly. Given the existing resources, it was more cost-efficient to enhance the existing evening out-patient service than setting up additional evening out-patient service at new locations. Currently, evening out-patient service would be enhanced under the existing mechanism, and he hoped that residents could understand the circumstance;
- (i) in respect of telephone booking service, the hotline was very busy, but 700 lines were provided. There were also lines reserved for the elderly to facilitate their booking. The rate of successful booking for the elderly in Sha Tin District exceeded 90%; and
- (j) he noted members' views and would relay them to the authorities concerned. All healthcare staff of PWH would continue to make every effort to provide the most appropriate A&E service.

5 4. The Chairman said that Mr Alvin LEE had arrived in the meeting room, and he asked members to note it.

5 5. Mr Victor LEUNG put forward the following suggestion:

“According to the latest data, a number of estates have been completed in Sha Tin District during recent years. With the population growing and ageing, residents' demand for medical care has been surging. Therefore, the authorities concerned are requested to provide evening out-patient service at Yuen Chau Kok GOPC to mitigate the pressure on PWH's A&E service.”

Question to be Raised by Mr YUNG Ming-chau, Michael on Planning of the Hospital Authority New Territories East Cluster's Out-patient Service and Medical Service
(Paper No. HE 50/2017)

5 6. The views of Mr Michael YUNG were summarised below:

- (a) his family had visited a specialist out-patient clinic (SOPC) recently. As a family member of the patient, he found that the healthcare staff and room of PWH were insufficient. The healthcare staff were weighed down with work. He took the opportunity to thank the healthcare staff of PWH for providing excellent medical service all the years. He also hoped that the Government could allocate more resources to increase the level of healthcare;
- (b) the response in Item (1)(c) of the paper said that the number of attendance to GOPCs had increased by 130 000 in total, and mentioned the increase in quota. New Territories East Cluster (NTEC) included Sha Tin, Tai Po and North District. If the primary medical service was not satisfactory, and residents had difficulties in making telephone booking, they would visit the

A&E service when their illness recurred. This would increase the burden of the A&E service. He wished to know the allocation and use of resources in the primary medical service;

- (c) he enquired whether the number of waiting patients at SOPCs was actually as high as rumoured. If the number of waiting patients was unknown, it was difficult to determine whether the medical staff of the SOPCs were indeed insufficient;
- (d) the response in Item (1)(c) of the paper said that quotas were reserved for elderly people aged 65 or above. He understood that the arrangement of telephone booking released some quotas every hour. He enquired the percentage reserved for the elderly, whether it would be adjusted in response to the habit of the elderly in making phone calls, how many patients made appointments roughly, and whether the increase of quotas would be considered if there were too many patients;
- (e) Items (3)(a) and (3)(b) of the paper set out the number of doctors and nurses. He hoped that NTEC could provide figures by departments and provide relevant information after the meeting;
- (f) in respect of Phase 2 redevelopment project for PWH, a decanting building would be constructed in Shatin Hospital, which was inaccessible by New Territories (NT) taxis. The staff of PWH could only commute by urban taxis; and
- (g) in response, the Transport Department (TD) said that the existing permitted operating areas for NT taxis were delineated under the policy on the designation of operating areas for NT taxis. The intention for introducing NT taxis was to provide taxi services to the rural and remote areas in the NT. Limited adjustments had been made but only to allow access to major infrastructural facilities and major public transport interchanges outside their operating areas along appropriate roads, with no picking up or dropping off activities allowed along the routes. He did not know whether “major facilities” included hospitals. If yes, it would be unreasonable that Shatin Hospital was not included. In some areas of North District, it was difficult to find urban taxis, and residents could only take an NT taxi. As a result, residents had to take an NT taxi to PWH and then take an urban taxi to Shatin Hospital. He enquired whether discussions would be held with the TD on relaxing or rationalise relevant provisions.

57. The views of Mr LI Sai-hung were summarised below:

- (a) in respect of telephone booking service in out-patient clinics, many elderly people who failed to make telephone booking turned to Councillors’ offices for help. It often took them one to three days to make booking successfully;
- (b) in respect of SOPCs, many residents had to wait for one to two years, and had to turn to hospitals in other districts for treatment in the end. He wanted to know whether there was any specific scheme to reduce the waiting time in the long run; and

- (c) the number of visits of the elderly to government GOPCs had increased as the HA issued medical fee waivers to the elderly. He enquired whether the service could be enhanced in proportion.

58. Mr Rick HUI said that in respect of telephone booking in the GOPCs, many residents had complained that it was difficult to make appointments. He enquired PWH whether there were data regarding the number of calls put through, the number of calls failed, etc.

59. Dr CHEUNG Nai-kwong gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) in respect of GOPC service, the statistics for the past year showed that more than 90% elderly people aged over 65 were able to obtain quotas from GOPCs in Sha Tin through the telephone booking system within 24 hours. According to available data, the total service capacity of GOPCs in New Territories East would exceed 920 000 in the future, distributed to different out-patient clinics. Each clinic would be adjusted slightly depending on the regional needs, and would be managed by the Family Medicine Department of the NTEC. The number of consultation rooms varied by clinic, ranging from one to ten. PWH basically used all spaces;
- (b) in respect of SOPCs, he cited PWH as an example. The number of consultation rooms exceeded 190. Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital had 50 consultation rooms, and North District Hospital had 40 consultation rooms. The utilisation ratios were all close to 100%. The number of attendance during 2016 to 2017 was approximately 1.17million, representing a very high utilisation ratio. Improvement would be made in this aspect based on the demand in the future;
- (c) the waiting time for SOPCs could be viewed online. In the NTEC, the waiting time for a few departments was particularly long. For example, the waiting time for psychiatry, orthopaedics and medicine exceeded 100 weeks. The waiting time for orthopaedics was close to 180 weeks. As in the case of A&E service, there was also a triage system for SOPCs. The above-mentioned figures referred to the waiting time for stable new cases and excluded urgent cases. Severe or urgent cases would be classified into priority 1 category and priority 2 category. The performance pledge in respect of priority 1 category was two weeks. Such cases were usually treated within one week. The performance pledge in respect of priority 2 category was eight weeks. Such cases were usually treated within two weeks;
- (d) the healthcare staff of SOPCs would classify patients based on the information in the referral letter and treat cases according to the priority level;
- (e) he emphasised that PWH had various ways to deal with the problem of waiting time. For example, a new plan would be launched in September for the orthopaedics, allowing family medicine specialists to assist in treating and referring new cases. In addition, the “mental health clinic” service rolled out this July had decreased the waiting time from over 90 weeks to over 50 weeks for adult general psychiatry in the NTEC, obtaining a favourable outcome statistically. In the future, PWH would continue to monitor the waiting time at

different levels and provide residents with GOPC and SOPC services catering for their needs;

- (f) the relocation to the decanting building in Shatin Hospital only included non-clinic and logistic departments and facilities such as warehouse. He emphasised that the redevelopment of PWH and the construction of this building would not affect PWH's patient services; and
- (g) in respect of telephone booking of out-patient clinics, as the system would not require callers to input information when quotas were used up. Therefore, there was no figure to show unsuccessful calls but only figure of successful calls.

60. The Chairman ended this agenda item.

61. Mr LI Sai-hung said that a quorum did not seem to be present at the meeting, and he requested a headcount.

62. As a quorum was not yet present after 15 minutes, the Chairman announced at 6:17 pm that the meeting was adjourned. He decided to extend to the next meeting the questions not discussed at this meeting. The information paper would be circulated to members for their consideration. He said that Mr Rick HUI proposed to him that at the next meeting priority be given to the questions not dealt with at this meeting. The Chairman said that he would consider the relevant arrangement.

Date of Next Meeting

63. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at 2:30 pm on 9 November 2017 (Thursday).

64. The meeting was adjourned at 6:17 pm.

Sha Tin District Council Secretariat
STDC 13/15/40

October 2017