

Sha Tin District Council
Minutes of the 1st Meeting of
the Health and Environment Committee in 2018

Date : 11 January 2018 (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	9:16 pm
Ms YUE Shin-man (Vice-Chairman)	”	2:30 pm	8:37 pm
Mr HO Hau-cheung, SBS, MH	DC Chairman	2:30 pm	7:49 pm
Mr CHAN Billy Shiu-yeung	DC Member	2:30 pm	4:55 pm
Mr CHAN Kwok-keung, James	”	3:52 pm	5:02 pm
Ms CHAN Man-kuen	”	2:30 pm	8:15 pm
Mr CHAN Nok-hang	”	2:57 pm	4:55 pm
Mr CHENG Tsuk-man	”	2:44 pm	5:11 pm
Mr CHING Cheung-ying, MH	”	2:39 pm	5:25 pm
Mr CHIU Chu-pong, Sunny	”	2:37 pm	4:25 pm
Mr CHIU Man-leong	”	2:30 pm	7:44 pm
Mr HUI Yui-yu, Rick	”	2:30 pm	3:30 pm
Mr LAI Tsz-yan	”	2:55 pm	9:16 pm
Ms LAM Chung-yan	”	2:30 pm	2:50 pm
Mr LEE Chi-wing, Alvin	”	5:29 pm	6:29 pm
Mr LEUNG Ka-fai, Victor	”	2:40 pm	3:39 pm
Mr LI Sai-hung	”	2:30 pm	9:08 pm
Mr LI Sai-wing	”	2:30 pm	2:43 pm
Mr LI Wing-shing, Wilson	”	2:30 pm	7:14 pm
Mr MAK Yun-pui	”	2:30 pm	4:25 pm
Mr MOK Kam-kwai, BBS	”	3:16 pm	5:38 pm
Mr NG Kam-hung	”	2:42 pm	5:15 pm
Ms PONG Scarlett Oi-lan, BBS, JP	”	2:30 pm	9:16 pm
Mr PUN Kwok-shan, MH	”	2:30 pm	6:29 pm
Mr SIU Hin-hong	”	2:30 pm	6:29 pm
Mr TING Tsz-yuen	”	2:45 pm	7:14 pm
Mr TONG Hok-leung	”	2:30 pm	8:02 pm
Ms TUNG Kin-lei	”	2:30 pm	9:16 pm
Mr WAI Hing-cheung	”	2:30 pm	9:16 pm
Mr WONG Fu-sang, Tiger	”	2:30 pm	8:49 pm
Mr WONG Hok-lai	”	3:02 pm	6:30 pm
Mr WONG Ka-wing, MH	”	2:30 pm	7:55 pm
Ms WONG Ping-fan, Iris	”	2:30 pm	9:16 pm
Mr YAU Man-chun	”	2:36 pm	4:39 pm
Mr YIP Wing	”	2:30 pm	4:44 pm
Mr YIU Ka-chun	”	2:30 pm	7:55 pm
Mr YUNG Ming-chau, Michael	”	2:30 pm	9:16 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

Ms MOK Kit-ye
Mr CHAU Wai

Mr PANG Tak-chiu

Mr YUEN Chun-kit, Derek

Title

Assistant District Officer / Sha Tin District Office
District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Sha Tin) /
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Housing Manager (Tai Po, North and Sha Tin 3) / 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

Mr FUNG Ka-wai
Mr CHEN Ka-yin
Mr CHAN Hin-kwong
Mr LUK Yik-chun
Ms NG Ching-ye
Mr LEUNG Hon-wan
Mr CHAN Chi-cheung
Mr WONG Hung-man
Ms YAU King-ye
Mr CHAN Ying-kin
Ms YUEN Ka-wai
Mr TAM Ying-fan
Mr CHAN Chi-wai
Mr YEUNG Wing-fung
Ms NGAN Man-shan
Dr CHAN Man-chi
Dr Benjamin LEE

Ms NG Ting-yan

Ms LAU Wan-ye

Ms CHIR Cheuk-yin, Yasmin
Ms AU YEUNG Sin-man, Angie
Mr MUI Yin-wai
Mr TO Pui-ye, Perry

Ms CHAN Suet-shan
Mr LAU Tin-lap, Daniel
Mr LAU Yin-pong

Mr CHAN Cheuk-pui

Mr LAM Sau-ki, Denis
Mr LUI Kan-man, Raymond
Mr MAK Yee-fung
Mr LUI Chun-kwok
Mr LEUNG Man-dik

Title

Senior Engineer / Project Management 4 / Drainage Services Department
Engineer / Project Management 12 / Drainage Services Department
Project Manager / Black & Veatch Hong Kong Ltd.
Project Engineer / Black & Veatch Hong Kong Ltd.
Project Engineer / Black & Veatch Hong Kong Ltd.
Senior Engineer / Sewerage Projects 5 / Drainage Services Department
Engineer / Sewerage Projects 17 / Drainage Services Department
Engineer / Sewerage Projects 26 / Drainage Services Department
Director / AECOM Asia Company Limited
Executive Director / AECOM Asia Company Limited
Senior Engineer / Flood Control / Drainage Services Department
Engineer / Flood Control 5 / Drainage Services Department
Director / AECOM Asia Company Limited
Senior Engineer / AECOM Asia Company Limited
Senior Pharmacist / Hospital Authority
Senior Pharmacist / Prince of Wales Hospital
Clinical Stream Coordinator (Pharmacy) /
New Territories East Cluster of Hospital Authority
Corporate Communications Manager (External Affairs) /
Hospital Authority
Manager (Communications and Community Relations) /
Prince of Wales Hospital
Head of Tree Management Office / Development Bureau
Assistant Secretary (Tree Management) 1/ Development Bureau
Station Commander (Atg) / Sha Tin Fire Station
Senior Landscape Architect / Vegetation Maintenance (Special) /
Highways Department
Senior Land Executive / Land Control / District Lands Office, Sha Tin
Senior Engineer / 9 (North) / Civil Engineering and Development Department
Country Parks Officer (Central) / Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Department
Environmental Protection Officer (Regional North) 43 /
Environmental Protection Department
Project Manager (Architect) / Sha Tin District Office
Liaison Officer i/c (West) 4 / Sha Tin District Office
Sub-Unit Commander (Patrol) (2) (Shatin Division) / Hong Kong Police Force
Second Patrol Sub-Unit Sergeant (Shatin Division) / Hong Kong Police Force
Assistant Public Relations Manager (External Affairs) /
MTR Corporation Limited

Absent

Mr PANG Cheung-wai, Thomas, SBS, JP
Ms TSANG So-lai

Title

DC Vice-Chairman
DC Member

(Application for leave of absence received)
(")

Action**Welcoming Message**

The Chairman welcomed members and representatives of government departments to the 1st 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 Thomas PANG	Attendance at a meeting organised by an
	institution under the Mainland Government
Mr Alvin LEE	Official commitment
Ms TSANG So-lai	"

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

4. The Chairman said that as the previous meeting was not held over a lack of quorum, there remained three questions that would need to be addressed at this meeting. He therefore suggested that those three questions, namely HE 59/2017, HE 60/2017 and HE 61/2017 should be dealt with after Matters Arising but before Discussion Items. He asked members whether they had any other views about this arrangement.

5. The Chairman said that no member expressed any other views, and that members unanimously agreed on the above adjustment to agenda items.

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 9 November 2017

(HEC Minutes 6/2017)

6. Members unanimously confirmed the above minutes.

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

(Paper No. HE 1/2018)

7. Members noted the above paper.

Questions**Question to be Raised by Mr YIU Ka-chun on Tree Management and Potential Risks**

(Paper No. HE 59/2017)

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

- (a) while fallen trees were found in local villages after the typhoon hit Hong Kong

in August 2017, it however, took the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) and the District Lands Office, Sha Tin (DLO/ST) more than a month just to start the clearing process, and yet another to finish;

- (b) in its response to question (b), the Development Bureau (DEVB) claimed that it would clear away all dead branches within one month, yet in the end, it took the DEVB over two months to finish the work – after being repeatedly prompted by himself. In its response to question (c), the DEVB claimed that to facilitate effective daily tree management, all concerning departments faithfully performed their duties, and available resources had been fully utilised;
- (c) he opined that the current arrangement did not prove most effective. For example, while the LCSD was primarily responsible for managing relevant venues and planning leisure activities, only a few staff members were accountable for tree management; a mere eight staff members from the Highways Department (HyD) were assigned for New Territories East; and at the DLO/ST, five staff members had to handle an average of over 100 cases on a monthly basis. He opined that the Tree Management Office (TMO) of the DEVB should co-ordinate all issues related to tree management; and
- (d) some of the government lands managed by the DLO/ST were not fenced-in, and since a large number of villages were located in his constituency, he had to visit many of them after each typhoon strike, because of the overwhelming number of issues reported by villages. Local residents did not even know which department was responsible for those trees. There was a case where fallen trees were caught in wire fences, while the DLO/ST claimed that the HyD was responsible for dead branches on the road, the HyD however, named the DLO/ST as the responsible party. In the end, it took two whole months for those branches to be cleared away. He wanted to praise the HyD and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), who claimed that either of them would have made it a priority to clear those branches. The DLO/ST, however, failed to follow up the issue.

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

- (a) Hang Shun Street, Chevalier Garden Bus Terminus, A Kung Kok Street, Hang Chi Street, Ma On Shan Tsuen Road and Sai Sha Road Garden at Tai Shui Hang all suffered from similar issues. He said that while the TMO had put in quite some administrative effort, it however, failed to find any effective solution to the pressing issues. Since the TMO entered into service contracts with contractors offering the lowest prices in relation to tree management, he therefore doubted the efficiency in tree management;
- (b) he was under the impression that the DLO/ST managed all un-allocated government land, yet, according to the DLO/ST, land located in the vicinity of Ma On Shan Tsuen Road was managed by the LCSD. He was also told by a certain Land Executive that while the DLO/ST managed a large number of trees, it only had access to limited resources when handling them; and

- (c) in the responses from relevant departments, the LCSD claimed that in general, most cases would be dealt with and responded to within 30 days; the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department said that a complaint would normally be closed within 10 calendar days after its receipt; the DLO/ST stated that its management team had no statistics about the average time required for dealing with a case; the HyD claimed that it would follow up on and issue a final response in relation to most cases related to tree maintenance and management within 30 days. While the TMO showed a lack of effort in supervising tree management works undertaken by these departments, he also found it hard to understand why a service commitment could still take as long as 30 days in this day and age. He enquired whether no improvement should be expected without prompting the public to call 1823 or file complaints with the Office of the Ombudsman.

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

- (a) after each typhoon strike, even if the trees involved were not managed by the HyD or the FEHD, they would still have them cleared away within one or two weeks. The DLO/ST was however, less than efficient, constantly spending a few months just to clear away dead branches. Take the large turf of Sha On Street under its management for example, it was a known fact that people cut down trees and grew plants there illegally, which was also reported by the media. While the DLO/ST admitted to having received complaints in October, it told the media that nothing was found. Yet, the media managed to find locations of those illegal plants. More often than not, the DLO/ST claimed that it failed to deal with fallen trees because they were found in areas managed by the HyD. He urged the DLO/ST to enhance communication with other departments and stop shifting responsibilities, for any fallen tree would pose a threat to public safety. He also hoped that the DEVB and other departments could jointly monitor the performance of the DLO/ST; and
- (b) the DLO/ST claimed that it would deal with fallen trees based on how dangerous and serious a situation was, he asked how the DLO/ST went about defining whether a situation was dangerous and serious, urging the DLO/ST to submit relevant criteria after the meeting. The DLO/ST staff also claimed that due to a lack of resources, they had no choice but to install wire fences even in the event of a breaking and entering at government land.

11. The Chairman said that in its response, the Housing Department (HD) claimed that upon receiving any report about potential risks posed by tree(s) under its management, it would send staff to the scene within 30 minutes, who would then seal off all dangerous spots with 90 minutes after arrival; in case of fallen branches, they would be cleared away within four hours after staff arrival, and relevant trees would be checked on within three days afterwards. Based on his experience, there had been cases where sealed-off areas remained undealt with for over a month. He therefore enquired whether the HD was understaffed.

12. Ms CHAN Suet-shan, Senior Land Executive / Land Control of the DLO/ST gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) upon becoming aware of tree-related issues or receiving complaints, the Land and Vegetation Contract Management Section under the DLO/ST would

arrange for contractors and registered arborists to investigate and deal with them onsite, however, in the event that the trees in question were under the management of other departments, the DLO/ST would immediately refer them to the responsible departments. The Fire Services Department and the HyD would follow up on immediate tree-related dangers. The DLO/ST would also arrange for fenced-in government land to be weeded and trimmed from time to time. The DLO/ST was primarily responsible for unleased and unallocated government land, so the trimming frequency depended on the complexity of and available resources for each individual case; and

- (b) the DLO/ST was not responsible for trees located within 10 metres from the kerbs of public roads. The DLO/ST would continue to enhance communication with other departments, so as to reduce the time required to remove fallen trees.

13. Ms Yasmin CHIR, Head of TMO of the DEVB gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the TMO was mainly responsible for encouraging relevant departments and the public to manage trees in a professional manner. Each of the relevant departments would be responsible for managing trees located in its own jurisdiction, which had been explicitly defined. In the event of tree-related issues, residents were advised to call 1823 or contact the TMO. She recently received a case where reported trees were located in the jurisdiction of the DLO/ST, she also visited the scene herself to make sure that the trees in question were properly fenced; and
- (b) the TMO currently operated in accordance with the Guidelines for Tree Risk Assessment and Management Arrangement (Guidelines for Tree Assessment). Each year, the TMO would remind each of the concerning departments to complete a two-phase tree risk assessment before the monsoon season. The first phase was location-based, where all roadside trees would be examined; the second phase was tree-focused, where relevant departments were required to inspect trees in a systematic manner and handle those with structural hazards.

14. Mr PANG Tak-chiu, Deputy District Leisure Manager (Sha Tin 2) of the LCSD responded that according to Technical Circulars (Works) issued by the DEVB, the LCSD was responsible for managing trees planted at leisure facilities, as well as those located within 10 metres from the kerbs of pavements, green belts and non-expressways. Since a large number of trees were damaged in the severe typhoon strike last year, contractors therefore also needed more time to have all fallen trees and branches cleared away. The LCSD and relevant contractors would learn from this experience to be better prepared for windy seasons in the future, with a view to speeding up the clearing process and minimising inconvenience caused to the public.

15. Ms MOK Kit-ye, Housing Manager (Tai Po, North and Sha Tin 3) of the HD responded that the HD stationed staff at relevant estates on a 24-hour basis, who would be able to arrive at any scene within 30 minutes. In case fallen trees or branches not too difficult to handle, they would be cleared away within four hours. HD staff would issue a work order and follow up on any case that could not be handled without the help of an aerial work

platform or the assistance from relevant contractor. The HD was unable to have all fallen trees and branches cleared away within one month because two typhoons hit Hong Kong in a single month, which resulted in an excessive work load.

16. Mr Eric TSAI, District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Sha Tin) of the FEHD responded that upon spotting waste in tree debris, FEHD staff would clear it away and apply pesticides on a regular basis, regardless of which department was responsible.

17. Mr Daniel LAU, Senior Engineer / 9 (North) of the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) responded that the CEDD was responsible for all trees located in work areas under its management, and the CEDD would always arrange for tree inspection following a typhoon strike.

18. Mr Perry TO, Senior Landscape Architect / Vegetation Maintenance (Special) of the HyD responded that any tree likely to affect road safety would be handled without delay.

19. The Chairman asked the DLO/ST to submit criteria that it used for assessing tree-related danger and seriousness after the meeting, so that members could be informed of the DLO/ST's priorities when handling trees. He said that he had received and would agree to handle a provisional motion. He asked whether members agreed to handle the provisional motion.

20. Members unanimously agreed to handle the relevant provisional motion.

21. Mr YIU Ka-chun moved a provisional motion as follows:

“In summer every year, flooding and fallen trees are found in many districts after Hong Kong is raided by typhoons. Besides, owing to several factors such as natural withering of trees, insects, environment and vandalism, many broken branches can easily be found in all districts, and sometimes traffic and accessibility of residents are even seriously affected. Up till now, the number of cases of dangerous trees and requests for removal of withered branches has been increasing. As such, tree management and potential risks have aroused public concern. The Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section under the Development Bureau, being the main department which is tasked to map out Hong Kong's tree management policy and strategy and lay down relevant guidelines, has the responsibility to further upgrade the tree management level in Hong Kong.

The Health and Environment Committee of the Sha Tin District Council puts forward a motion to requests the Development Bureau and the relevant departments to study and revise the tree management strategy and review the policy with a view to implementing a more effective and advanced management and monitoring system. Meanwhile, the Government should consider setting up a centralised executive department to manage all the trees throughout the territory. Moreover, more tree management professionals should be employed to address the community's needs so as to carry out routine tree management work in an efficient manner and timely deal with problematic trees.”

Ms Iris WONG seconded the motion.

22. Mr Wilson LI said that while the FEHD and the HyD were quite responsive when dealing with problematic trees in his constituency. The DLO/ST was however, less than effective. He opined that it was not appropriate for each department to follow its own guidelines. He hoped that the mover of the motion would consider adding a request for a standard performance pledge.

23. Mr Michael YUNG said that the provisional motion appeared to have two plans, one requesting the DEVB and concerned departments to study, update tree management plans, and review relevant policies; another requesting a centralised execution department to be set up to manage all trees in Hong Kong. He asked the mover whether the first was a short-term plan and the second for longer terms. If so, he would like the mover to have them specified. The TMO just mentioned its guidelines for tree assessment several times, he asked the Chairman whether it would be possible to ask the TMO to provide such guidelines for members' reference.

24. The Chairman said that since the guidelines for tree assessment might be a few pages long, he would therefore ask the TMO to send the guidelines to the Secretariat, who would subsequently send them to each member via email, as it would be eco-friendlier this way.

25. Mr YIU Ka-chun revised his provisional motion as follows:

“In summer every year, flooding and fallen trees are found in many districts after Hong Kong is raided by typhoons. Besides, owing to several factors such as natural withering of trees, insects, environment and vandalism, many broken branches can easily be found in all districts, and sometimes traffic and accessibility of residents are even seriously affected. Up till now, the number of cases of dangerous trees and requests for removal of withered branches has been increasing. As such, tree management and potential risks have aroused public concern. The Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section under the Development Bureau, being the main department which is tasked to map out Hong Kong's tree management policy and strategy and lay down relevant guidelines, has the responsibility to further upgrade the tree management level in Hong Kong.

The Health and Environment Committee of the Sha Tin District Council puts forward a motion to requests the Development Bureau and the relevant departments to, in the short run, study and revise the tree management strategy, review the policy and performance pledges with a view to implementing a more effective and advanced management and monitoring system. In the long run, the Government should consider setting up a centralised executive department to manage all the trees throughout the territory. Moreover, more tree management professionals should be employed to address the community's needs so as to carry out routine tree management work in an efficient manner and timely deal with problematic trees.”

Ms Iris WONG seconded the motion.

26. Members unanimously endorsed the provisional motion in paragraph 25.

Question to be Raised by Mr CHAN Billy Shiu-yeung on Louse Problem in Sha Tin District
(Paper No. HE 60/2017)

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

- (a) in its response to question (d), the HD claimed that it would urge cleaning contractors to enhance sanitation of public areas, such as corridors and staircases. He felt that the HD considered louse a personal problem for tenants. Seeing that the louse problem at estates was becoming increasingly serious, he therefore could not agree with this view. It could easily cost the elderly a few thousand dollars to deal with the louse problem. He asked the HD whether there was any other way for it to help the elderly, besides distributing pamphlets;
- (b) the HD said that it had no plans to form a designated louse control section with the FEHD to help tenants deal with the louse problem. The HD received a total of six requests for assistance in relation to louse problem during the past three years, three of which were filed in his constituency – Sha Kok Estate. He opined that lice were a major concern for tenants. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) responded that Integrated Family Service Centres, operated by the SWD or non-governmental organisations, would assist individuals and families in need. He enquired about the time required and whether non-governmental organisations in the district were the only responsible parties. He urged the SWD to provide relevant information if it was not available for the time being; and
- (c) the HD responded that it would help make referrals if it proved difficult for tenants to deal with louse problem on their own. He enquired whether the cases dealt with recently had been referred elsewhere. In addition, while the HD said in its response that there was no sign of lice spreading for the few cases that it handled recently, louse problem had however, already been spread to neighbouring units in the three cases reported in his constituency.

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

- (a) while the HD would send pest control teams to deal with louse problems reported by residents, he enquired about the response time. To the best of his knowledge, the HD would send out pest control teams after it had received multiple reports, the longer this took, the greater risk of lice multiplying;
- (b) non-governmental organisations were currently leasing properties managed by the HD, the HD should therefore follow up in case of louse problem. Since there were elderly centres, women centres and youth centres in the area, a large number of people would be affected. He enquired whether the HD had any schedule or relevant guidelines for dealing with louse problem in these places; and
- (c) he opined that “hoarder’s room” was one of the causes of louse problem, citing a certain unit at Lee On Estate, which was a “hoarder’s room” whose louse problem spread to neighbouring units after fire, causing hygiene issues. Some of these sources were readily observable, yet the HD failed to effectively

address issues associated with “hoarder’s room”. He understood that “hoarder’s room” involved patients suffering from mental disorders, which required collaboration with the SWD, however, he asked the HD whether it could take the initiative to address relevant issues, instead of relying on the SWD to do all the work.

29. Mr NG Kam-hung opined that humidity caused mosquitos, lice and biting midges, and some of the short yet watery plants were a hotbed for pests. Take small-fruited fig for example, its fruits, when fallen on the ground, would provide an ideal environment for pests. He suggested that relevant departments should consider addressing the issue from this area.

30. The Chairman enquired whether the HD was aware of any case where neighbouring units of a lice-infected unit also suffered from louse and termite problems.

31. Ms MOK Kit-ye gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the HD took mosquito and louse problems very seriously, it would find out the cause upon receiving any report, and neither the HD nor its contractors would act only after receiving multiple complaint cases. In order to prevent mosquito problem, the HD would trim from time to time and pick plants to prevent mosquitos from multiplying. Regarding louse problem, the HD would sanitise public areas on a regular basis, and in cases where it was difficult for tenants to deal with louse problem over financial issues, the HD would either refer them to other concerning departments (including the SWD) or seek volunteer assistance;
- (b) none of the recent cases was caused by neighbouring units. Upon discovering similar issues at neighbouring units of a lice-infected unit, the HD would find out about the cause, like whether there was a “hoarder’s room” or renovation was taking place at some other unit where miscellaneous items were being hoarded; and
- (c) the HD had always dealt with issues about “hoarder’s room” directly, any tenant appearing to have such disorder would generally be referred to the SWD for assistance. In addition, the HD would also help residents with difficulties to clean their home, so that any hygiene issue could be contained. As to whether the louse problem for some of the cases at Sha Kok Estate had spread or been referred elsewhere, she said that she would have to obtain more information before giving any answer.

32. The Chairman asked the HD to stay in touch with Mr Billy CHAN after the meeting to follow up the cases.

Question to be Raised by Mr LAI Tsz-yan on Noise Nuisance at the Riverside of Shing Mun River

(Paper No. HE 61/2017)

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

- (a) according to the Police Force, a total of 92 cases had been received during the past 12 months. He enquired why only 37 advices and 7 verbal warnings were

issued. He had been receiving public complaints about noise nuisance every day since October last year, especially from those living in upper floor flats, yet the number published by the Police Force was significantly smaller than that recorded by his office. He enquired whether the difference meant that many residents had given up asking for help from the Police Force. While the Police Force claimed the current approach was most effective, as each department followed the regulations now in force to deal with noise nuisance, he asked if it was indeed effective, then how come the issue still persisted;

- (b) while the Sha Tin District Office (STDO) claimed that it had held cross-departmental meetings, yet no improvement was made to the issue – which he had been reporting since April last year. As to how to prevent noise nuisance resulting from the revitalisation of Shing Mun River Promenade near Sha Tin Town Centre, the STDO claimed to have organised a cross-departmental meeting in November 2017, he enquired about the discussion results; and
- (c) he enquired whether the Police had the power to disperse those making noise, stating that the issue would not deteriorate if the Police took it seriously. While there were about five or six groups, he expected to see more in the future. In terms of the feasibility of restricting the use of public address equipment at certain areas, he enquired about the responsible department.

34. Mr MAK Yun-pui said that no district was spared from noise resulting from dancing and singing, he opined that since the public had already established certain time slots and black spots, for example, people danced and made noise at the vacant land of Ma On Shan Park every morning, then the concerned departments should inspect, enforce the law and disperse those making noise at these time slots, instead of sending staff only after receiving complaints, for those making noise would have been long gone when staff arrived at the scene. The issue was getting increasingly serious, while he had no idea where their power supplies came from, the number of amplifiers was increasing. He urged different government departments to come up with solutions.

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

- (a) noise nuisance at the riverside of Shing Mun River had been a public issue for quite some time. While many different departments had tried to address it, none managed to solve it for good. Members had made many suggestions over the years, yet none of the departments appeared all that keen on solving the issue. One complaint that stuck with him was made by a resident of Stage 3 of New Town Plaza, a doctor who needed to, but could not sleep during the day because of noise, which went to show just how serious the issue was;
- (b) more often than not, local residents preferred to report their problems through DC Members, which meant that they did not necessarily have the time to testify. For example, asking a doctor to testify would affect many patients, and all people wanted was to have their old quiet lives back. Sha Tin was known as a quiet place, a feature that was being ruined by these activities. He believed that the community would not insist on the Police enforcing the law, just as long as the problem could be solved for good;

- (c) the Secretariat of the STDC and the STDO would reserve funding for certain organisations to host community events, which included copyrights fees, he enquired about the calculation of such funding. In addition, he enquired whether relevant organisations had been informed of such spirited singing activities at Sha Tin, so that they could charge those playing songs for copyrights, which in his opinion, would cost more than fines. If feasible, he was confident that this would help reduce the impact from noise. If not, he opined that no funding should be reserved for those organisations to pay for copyrights; and
- (d) he agreed with the suggestion made by the Chairman about prohibiting the use of amplifiers at certain areas. Since the riverside of Shing Mun River was managed by different departments, he enquired whether it was feasible for those departments to use administrative methods to prohibit the use of amplifiers without resolving to legislature. If possible, he opined that the suggestion was worthy of further discussion.

36. The Chairman enquired about the feasibility of prohibiting the use of public address equipment at certain areas, and whether the STDO would put this forward at its cross-departmental meeting.

37. Mr CHAN Cheuk-pui, Environmental Protection Officer (Regional North) 43 of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) noise from public places was dealt with by the Noise Control Ordinance, the related parts of which were enforced by the Police Force. Upon receiving a complaint, the Police would take reasonable control measures based on actual circumstances at the time (e.g. description and place of the noise). Public members were advised to seek immediate assistance from the Police when being disturbed by noise from public places; and
- (b) according to the EPD, the Police prosecuted those who made noise singing and playing music at the riverside pavements of Shing Mun River. The EPD received a total of eight complaints from November 2016 to October 2017 in relation to noise nuisance resulted from singing and music playing at the riverside pavements of Shing Mun River. The EPD carried out inspections from time to time in response to complaints, through which it also noticed that relevant activities were organised at the riverside pavements of Shing Mun River from time to time, and it advised relevant personnel not to create any noise hazard.

38. Mr MAK Yee-fung, Sub-Unit Commander (Patrol) (2) (Shatin Division) of the Hong Kong Police Force gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) police officers would arrive at the scene when complaints were received, and the complainants would accept police advice or warnings at most cases to reduce volume or leave the premises. Since 2017, the Police had received a total of 89 complaints, in relation to which it issued 40 advices and 7 verbal warnings; and

- (b) the Police handled relevant cases in accordance with the Noise Control Ordinance (Cap 400), while those involved were allowed to use amplifiers, they would still be violating the ordinance if the volume reached a level that created a hazard. Legal advices were followed during prosecution, which would comprise two components, namely the subjective and objective. The subject component was based on on-site investigation made by police officers, while the objective component on testimony provided by the complainants. A prosecution was only justified in the presence of both components.

39. Mr Raymond LUI, Liaison Officer i/c (West) 4 of the STDO gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) representatives from the Police Force, the EPD, the LCSD and the FEHD attended another cross-departmental meeting held by the STDO on 29 November 2017. Based on his understanding, while the Police did enforce the law in accordance with the Noise Control Ordinance (Cap 400), the complainants however, seldom willingly testified, which made prosecution difficult. Policies for future actions were discussed at the meeting, such as how different departments (e.g. the EPD and the Police Force) would distribute pamphlets on-site in collaboration with DC Members, calling relevant personnel to reduce noise or move their activities somewhere appropriate. As to the issue about copyrights, he was aware that there was one organisation, namely CASH (Composers and Authors Society of Hong Kong Limited) that would receive copyrights fees; and
- (b) the STDO had considered other approaches in the past, for example, installing fitness equipment opposite the South Garden for public access. Yet, it went beyond the STDO's terms of reference to prohibit the use of public address equipment at any area.

40. Mr Denis LAM, Project Manager (Architect) of the STDO gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the pavement expansion work outside Sha Tin Sports Ground was expected to be completed in the third quarter this year. Following which, it would be managed by the Transport Department, with the HyD being responsible for maintenance, the Police for noise and security issues, and the FEHD for hygiene-related issues. Management for the expanded pavement to be newly completed would be no different from that for those at either side of the Shing Mun River; and
- (b) installation of fitness equipment, on the other hand, was expected to be completed within this year, after which it would be made available to the public. It would be managed in the same manner as other pavements, with the STDO being responsible for maintenance.

41. Mr Mannix MOK, Executive Officer (District Council) 1 of the STDO responded that the STDC Secretariat would assist the STDC with funding applications. Licensing and copyright fees were one of the approved expenses under the STDC's procedures and rules for funding application, whose funding criteria were "case-based". Any applicant for funding of this expenditure would be required to give detailed information in the application form,

the Working Group on Screening of Funding Application under the Culture, Sports and Community Development Committee would determine the amount to be granted.

42. Mr Simon WONG, Assistant District Officer of the STDO responded that the management of the riverside of Shing Mun River involved a number of different departments. For example, following the expansion, pavements outside Sha Tin Sports Ground were managed by the Transport Department, with the HyD being responsible for maintenance. As to the suggestions, including that on restricting the use of amplifiers at certain areas, since different departments had to follow their own management regulations, they had been discussing different suggestions at cross-departmental meetings. Regarding whether to notify copyright holders, he opined that a simple letter would suffice, and relevant copyright holders could, at their own discretion, decide whether to recover copyright fees.

43. The Chairman said that he had received and would agree to handle two provisional motions. He asked whether members agreed to handle the relevant provisional motions.

44. Members unanimously agreed to handle the relevant provisional motions.

45. Mr LAI Tsz-yan moved a provisional motion as follows:

“The Health and Environment Committee of the Sha Tin District Council requests the Hong Kong Police Force to step up enforcement actions and disperse those making noise to alleviate the noise nuisance caused to the residents at the riverside.”

Mr CHAN Nok-hang seconded the motion.

46. Mr Tiger WONG enquired the Police whether it had any power to disperse the public, and if yes, he would advise the mover to list any law and regulation that the Police should enforce in the provisional motion.

47. Mr HO Hau-cheung said that the provisional motion appeared to address only the Police, overlooking other departments that should be held accountable.

48. Mr MAK Yee-fung responded that the Police would be more than happy to apply for prosecution, provided that it had sufficient evidence; and the Police would also consider dispersing parties involved if no improvement was made to the situation afterwards.

49. Mr CHAN Nok-hang said that it might be feasible to include other government departments in the provisional motion.

50. Mr Tiger WONG said that based on response from the Police, it could only take further action when someone was actually disturbed, he therefore suggested that the mover should encourage those disturbed to report to the Police.

51. Mr Michael YUNG proposed to change the motion to read “requests the Police to enhance law enforcement and prosecute those making noise, and it calls out to the public to assist the Police in its prosecution”.

52. Ms Iris WONG opined that the use of amplifiers was the source of noise, she therefore suggested that the mover should stress in the provisional motion that the Police should target those using amplifiers.

53. Mr MAK Yun-pui opined that instead of just addressing the Police, the provisional motion should mention other departments as well, with a special note directed at those using public address equipment. He opined that it would be difficult to ask the public to do anything with a motion.

54. The Chairman opined that relevant departments should enhance their efforts in educating the public about related procedures.

55. Mr WONG Ka-wing said that now each mainlander carried a personal device and listened to music wearing headphones. It was the government's responsibility to enhance public education, he urged the mover to accept members' suggestions.

56. The Chairman announced that the meeting would be adjourned for 3 minutes, so as to allow the mover some time for revision.

57. The Chairman said that he received two provisional motions, one requesting relevant departments to enhance law enforcement, another requesting them to hold cross-departmental meetings. If members' suggestions were related to the later, they might consider making them later when dealing with the second provisional motion.

58. Mr LAI Tsz-yan revised his provisional motion as follows:

“The Health and Environment Committee of the Sha Tin District Council requests the Hong Kong Police Force and the relevant departments to step up enforcement actions to alleviate the noise nuisance caused to the residents at the riverside of Shing Mun River.”

Mr CHAN Nok-hang seconded the motion.

59. Members unanimously endorsed the provisional motion in paragraph 58.

60. Mr YAU Man-chun moved a provisional motion as follows:

“The Health and Environment Committee of the Sha Tin District Council strongly requests the Sha Tin District Office to play a leading role in coordinating various relevant government departments to seriously solve the noise nuisance problem at the riverside of Shing Mun River.”

Mr WAI Hing-cheung seconded the motion.

61. Mr HO Hau-cheung said that he understood that the STDO had already held cross-departmental meetings. He then enquired whether expressions such as “to further enhance” should be added to the provisional motion.

62. Mr YAU Man-chun said that hoped that a little freedom could be given to the STDO.

63. Members unanimously endorsed the provisional motion in paragraph 60.

Discussion Items

2017-2018 Revised Work Plans and Funding Applications of Working Groups under the Committee

(Paper No. HE 2/2018)

64. Members unanimously endorsed the above paper.

Condition Survey and Rehabilitation of Underground Sewers and Stormwater Drains - Stage 1

(Paper No. HE 3/2018)

65. Mr FUNG Ka-wai, Senior Engineer / Project Management 4 of the Drainage Services Department (DSD) and Mr CHAN Hin-kwong, Project Manager of the Black & Veatch Hong Kong Ltd. briefly introduced the paper.

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

- (a) she enquired how areas needing survey and rehabilitation were determined, whether rehabilitation was unnecessary for other locations not surveyed, and how many years would water supply pipes have to be in service to justify a survey. Since the DSD claimed that it would apply different technologies (including sonar) for the survey, she therefore asked whether disposable tools were used, if so, how would the DSD follow up on the survey afterwards. If the process involved the installation of certain systems, how was the power supplied and how would the DSD follow up on relevant matters; and
- (b) she asked what the difference was between polyester pipes and those currently in use. She asked whether the existing ones were prone to damage, and how long their life span was, and whether the repair method would be the same method in the future, and if so, whether repairment would gradually narrow the pipes.

67. Mr CHING Cheung-ying said that he was concerned about the impact from work-related road closures, as the work covered many trunk roads, including Che Kung Miu Road where the DSD had to close one or two traffic lanes in the middle for relevant works. He enquired how long these closures would last, how community members and motorists would be notified, how many outfalls were located there, as well as whether the works could help relocate them away from the road area, with a view to preventing future road closures. He urged the DSD to disclose in detail the opinions of other departments concerning road closures.

68. The views of Mr SIU Hin-hong were summarised below:

- (a) he enquired about the method for the public to tell sewers from stormwater drains. Based on his own observation, sewers in Sha Tin had been in service for quite some time. He enquired about how to determine whether pipes needed to be replaced. Since most outfalls were located in road areas, it would be better to have them relocated between traffic lanes, so as not to affect vehicle access. He asked in the event that drainage pipes ran through railways, whether the DSD was responsible for maintenance; and

- (b) chemical reactions created by blocked drains might be the cause of bursting drainage pipes, he therefore asked the DSD whether it would clear drains during construction to prolong their life span. He opined that proper maintenance was better than pipe replacement.

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

- (a) the development of Sha Tin District started many years ago. As Shatin Sewage Treatment Works would now be relocated to caverns, he enquired whether it was possible to adjust current sewer locations and the sewer network through multiple projects, so as to vacate space underground for other purposes;
- (b) water ponds had been spotted on a section of Tin Sam Street, located near the Che Kung Miu Road Playground. Given the current inspection arrangement, he enquired whether the inspection covered stormwater drains or sewers, for it was not clearly indicated in the plan. He opined that the DSD ought to provide detailed description in its plan. In the event that stormwater drains were located in this section, or that there had been water ponds, then it should be immediately repaired and not just inspected;
- (c) it was shown in the plan that a section of Che Kung Miu Road near Tin Sam Village also required inspection, yet it was impossible to tell whether the drainage channels in question were located under the bridge or by the road, he urged the DSD to clarify; and
- (d) as the busy traffic at Tai Wai Station Public Transport Interchange, located next to Mei Tin Road caused traffic jams, he urged the DSD to disclose its work plan in detail.

70. Mr TONG Hok-leung said that since the DSD claimed at its briefing that new technology for pipe replacement would be used to reduce the resulting impact, he enquired about the cost difference between the new and old technologies. Given the large number of pipes that needed replacing near Tai Wai Station, and the frequent accidents happening near the Octopus Footbridge, he opined that the DSD ought to take a prudent approach.

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

- (a) as shown in figures 3 and 4 in the paper, two of the drainage channels that needed repairing were located within railway facilities. Since those located at Tai Shui Hang Station were major drainage channels, any backflow of sewage would therefore affect locations near House 30 at Tai Shui Hang Village – being the lowest spot in the entire area. In addition to urging the DSD to pay attention to that spot, he also asked the DSD whether the works would affect rail transport operation, and how it would address worker safety;
- (b) as shown in figures 4, 5 and 7, pipes that needed to have work done all ran through highways. These were the locations where the only feasible arrangement would be to have works carried out at night. While it was understandable that a large number of permits would need to be applied for, the public however, would also expect work noise to be kept to a minimum. He enquired about the mitigation measures available. In addition, there would

be potential safety risks with workers having to work at night. He enquired about the safety precautions in accordance with which they would be addressed;

- (c) the DSD claimed that it would use “cured-in-place-pipe (CIPP) lining” – a form of “trenchless” technology. He enquired about the thickness of pipes, and their useful life following adoption of this technology. He also asked whether the pipes were strong enough, and if not, whether they would burst shortly afterwards. Fo Tan Road and Yuen Wo Road had suffered from similar issues in the past, and it took a whole year to repair all burst pipes. He asked in the event that problems were identified at relevant drainage channels following the inspection, whether the DSD would set up backup drainage channels; and
- (d) he asked after expiry of its life span, whether the DSD would repair a drainage channel anew or have it replaced. Given the fact that pipes might close up after using the new technology, he enquired of the DSD whether it had assessed any negative impact that the new technology would have on sewage collection.

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

- (a) he asked whether there had been any previous complaints from estates about backflow issues, and if yes, whether the current works were related to those complaints;
- (b) he enquired whether the pipes serving Sha Tin Sports Ground were located within or outside the venue. If they were within the venue, whether it would be necessary to close the ground temporarily; if so, for how long it would be closed. Since Tai Chung Kiu Road and Tai Po Road (Sha Tin Section) were main roads at Sha Tin, he estimated that the works would have to be carried out at night. He enquired about the measures for ensuring that residents living on either side of these roads would be protected against noise, especially given the fact that those of Tai Po Road (Sha Tin Section) had long been the victims of various noise nuisances;
- (c) Wang Pok Street was an extremely busy street located right between Shatin Centre and Lucky Plaza, and in proximity to residential areas. He asked how noise nuisance could be reduced if works were to be carried out at night; and
- (d) he enquired the DSD whether a liaison group would be set up before or after commencement of relevant works for public communication.

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

- (a) he enquired about the reason for selecting these pipes for Stage 1 of the works. As shown in figure 2, the pipes spread over Sha On Street and Wu Kai Sha Road. Although the future development of Ma On Shan would be different, there had been no inspection or repair works conducted at estates such as Lake Silver and Double Cove. He enquired whether it was because they had been completed quite recently; and

- (b) he enquired the DSD when it expected to commence works for Stage 2, and since a large number of new estates would be completed and start the in-take process in the future at Whitehead – a place with many steep slopes, they might be subject to flooding caused by blocked drains. He therefore reminded the DSD to pay attention to this matter.

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

- (a) most pipes that needed repairing at Tai Wai Area were located in the vicinity of Chui Tin Street, and the current waterworks were already affecting local traffic to a certain extent. He enquired whether the pipes that needed repairing were located at the pavements or traffic lanes, and how they would affect traffic; and
- (b) since most works at Tai Wai Town Centre were for pipe inspection, he enquired about to which extent they would affect traffic.

75. Mr FUNG Ka-wai gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) works for Stage 1 would cover locations that required inspection and repair services. Drainage pipes that needed repairing were those identified with high risk of structural damage. The repair would reduce the likelihood of potholes caused by damages of ageing drainage pipes;
- (b) following assessment by consulting firms, drainage pipes covering around 250 kilometres were rated of high risk. They would require detailed inspection, and necessary works would be determined according to actual circumstances;
- (c) the DSD managed approximately 4 100 kilometres of drainage pipes, among which about 1 800 kilometres had been in service for over 30 years. The DSD was therefore quite concerned about the ageing problem of drainage pipes. The adoption of “trenchless” repair technology could prolong the life span of drainage pipes to about 40 years. The DSD would also have drainage pipes inspected on a regular basis to stay informed of their conditions. In case any wear was discovered in the future, a decision between repair and replacement would be made by the DSD according to actual circumstances;
- (d) the benefit of “trenchless” technology was that it required no excavation, for it would install the lining into the host pipe from either side of the manhole, which would then be fixed to serve as the new pipe;
- (e) as to those pipes with 1.5 metres diameter installed at the section between Fo Tan Road and Yuen Wo Road, the repair work would adopt a method known as “sliplining” where new pipes would be installed into the old host pipes. Participating staff also spent quite some time dealing with sewage interception, which involved works of great complexity. Since the pipes repaired during Stage 1 were of smaller diameters, different methods were therefore adopted for repair and interception. In addition, where possible, the DSD would also have works for stormwater drains done during the dry season;

- (f) a detailed report would be provided after each inspection, in which pipes would be categorised into five levels, with level 4 and level 5 for those at higher risk for structural damage, in relation to which repair plans would be prepared according to actual circumstances;
- (g) this work was primarily aimed at inspecting and repairing drainage pipes at high risk for structural damage. If potholes were not caused by structural damages of pipes, but by other factors, he would like to contact individual members after the meeting to learn about the specific locations;
- (h) there were drainage pipes under management of the DSD located within railway facilities, and the DSD would communicate with MTR Corporation Limited (MTR) before commencing any work;
- (i) the plan for this work was to repair existing drainage pipes instead of altering the pipe alignment; and
- (j) stormwater drains could be distinguished from sewers by their covers. If necessary, the DSD could provide photos to Mr SIU Hin-hong for reference.

76. Mr CHAN Hin-kwong gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) even if pipes subject to inspection or repair were located at busy sections, works would only need to be carried out at the manholes on both sides of relevant pipes, requiring no excavation. The inspection process would normally take only four to six hours, six to eight for repair works, so the work arrangement could be quite flexible;
- (b) in case any pipe went across railway facilities, the Black & Veatch Hong Kong Ltd. would engage and stay in close contact with MTR, and follow MTR rules and safety guidance in all its works. As to works on highways, the latest guidelines issued by the HyD would be followed, and engineering personnel would also be present to oversee and ensure that contractors followed relevant guidelines;
- (c) repair materials were generally only 10-odd mm thick, and yet the designed life span ranged between 40 and 50 years. In addition, consulting firms would also make assessment to ensure that flows of drainage pipes would remain unchanged afterwards;
- (d) given the shorter construction period and no need for excavation, the required expenses would be lower than setting up drainage channels from scratch;
- (e) stormwater drains were used to collect discharged rain, while sewers were used to collect domestic sewage, which would then be directed to treatment works for processing. Repair materials for drainage pipes would undergo mechanical tests to ensure that they complied with international standards; and
- (f) communication would begin following commissioning of contractors and upon works commencement.

77. Members unanimously endorsed the above paper.

Relocation of Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works to Caverns - Report on Latest Progress and Implementation Arrangement of Stage 1 Works

(Paper No. HE 4/2018)

78. Mr LEUNG Hon-wan, Senior Engineer / Sewerage Projects 5 of the DSD briefly introduced the paper.

79. Mr PUN Kwok-shan appreciated the DSD for its detailed and clearly presented briefing. The works would require pipes to be relocated from west bank to east bank of the riverside of Shing Mun River, he therefore enquired to what extent the overall network of sewage pipes in Sha Tin would be changed.

80. The views of Mr SIU Hin-hong were summarised below:

- (a) as blasting would be required for the works, he enquired of the DSD how it would deal with that dust that might spread to residential areas; and
- (b) the DSD stressed sustainable development and community enhancement. He suggested that the DSD should build a sewage-themed museum, provide additional tourist attractions, build tea houses near Nui Po Shan as it proceeded with the works so as to attract tourists.

81. The Chairman said that Mr Alvin LEE had returned to the meeting room and he asked members to note it.

82. Mr Alvin LEE praised the DSD and its consulting firms for actively engaging local residents to address their doubts and concerns. The works would have existing machinery removed. He asked from an environmental protection point of view, how the DSD would dispose of those old machines, whether they would be taken apart and recycled, or otherwise sold to third-world countries. Since blasting would be necessary for the works, he enquired of the DSD how it would deal with the waste such as debris after blasting.

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

- (a) as to the removal of old sewage treatment works, the DSD had completed its environmental assessment and issued an initial statement claiming that no harmful substance was found. He enquired how issues identified upon removal would be dealt with;
- (b) at the Community Liaison Group Meeting, the new chairman and members of the Owners' Corporation (OC) of Chevalier Garden said that they were unaware of the fact that the former OC chairman did not allow concerned departments to place sound detecting devices within the estate. Since they said that they were willing to seek approval from residents for the DSD to place its equipment, he enquired about the progress;
- (c) in addition to denying the DSD's access to the estate to offer its explanation to residents, as the former OC chairman refused to lease any venue, all meetings had to be held at Tak Sun Secondary School, which was far away from

Chevalier Garden. For now, only circulars and relevant information were sent to residents, which appeared rather passive. He enquired whether the DSD would take the initiative to visit residents at Chevalier Garden and offer detailed explanations;

- (d) as the provisional work arrangement was about to be gazetted, he asked the how the DSD would deal with objections voiced during the period. Upon receiving objections made on reasonable ground, for example, if there was objection to the building of temporary roads that connected with work sites by the DSD, whether the DSD would abandon its plan to build temporary roads, which would result in higher traffic pressure on A Kung Kok Street;
- (e) a large number of works would be carried out in the area, including, among others, Yan On Estate Phase 2, estate development at the south-north section and the off-site decanting building for the Prince of Wales Hospital (PWH). Since A Kung Kok Street was one of the main roads at Ma On Shan, he therefore enquired about the number of vehicles accessing A Kung Kok Street during the construction and operation period; and
- (f) since some of the DSD's works did not reflect its best effort, he would still cast a dissenting vote.

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

- (a) the paper showed the cost for Stage 1 works would be \$2.08 billion. He enquired about the final construction cost, for it would be quite difficult to calculate the cost-effectiveness without it. He urged the DSD to fully disclose the aggregate amount;
- (b) a temporary work site would be set up at Area 73, while he knew that the Customs and Excise Department had already been moved, yet according to reports from residents, there remained a temporary car park nearby. He enquired of the DSD how it would ensure protection for nearby residents and schools against sand and dust from the temporary work site during the construction period, and whether it would be possible to have certain areas closed off with high fences to minimise the impact, whether monitoring points would be set up at different locations, and whether residents would have access to relevant data;
- (c) residents were slightly disappointed by the purpose set for land at Area 73, for the works would affect large areas of land for an extended period of time. In light of the strong demand among residents for cultural and leisure facilities there, he urged the DSD to re-examine the scope and term of the temporary work site, as an active response to resident demands, and a direct acknowledgement of the inconvenience that residents had to endure all these years;

- (d) there were many trees at a temporary work site near A Kung Kok Street. Since the DSD had those trees relocated for its own use, how it would compensate for the replanting expenses; and
- (e) he hoped that following completion of relevant works, the temporary cycle tracks built could be kept permanently.

85. Mr CHAN Ying-kin, Executive Director of the AECOM Asia Company Limited gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) since the works involved relocation of the existing Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works, adjustment would therefore have to be made to a few drainage pipes. The main objective of relevant works at drainage channels was to connect the existing Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works with drainage channels serving upstream pumping stations for expansion, or otherwise have them re-routed to the proposed cavern-based sewage treatment works. The project team would impose temporary traffic control during the construction of drainage pipes, with a view to mitigating traffic impact;
- (b) as to blasting works, the resulting vibration and noise nuisance were likely to be minimum since the blasting would be carried out in an enclosed area;
- (c) he thanked the member who suggested building a sewage-themed museum. Currently, there was an information centre at the Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works, which was set up to enhance public awareness about the DSD's works in flood prevention and sewage treatment. The Department also had future plans to set up educational facilities at the cavern-based sewage treatment works, which would introduce processes involved in flood prevention and sewage treatment. Though their scale had not been finalised, they might be featured with some of the used sewage treatment equipment for exhibition;
- (d) the existing facilities of the Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works included mechanical and building facilities. Mechanical facilities generally had a life span of 15 years, with low chances of being reused. However, even if they could not be reused, consideration would always be given to keeping them as back-up facilities;
- (e) after relocation of the Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works, the DSD would follow up relevant assessment to confirm whether there was any harmful substance at the current location, which would only be used for other purposes after having prepared and implemented treatment plans with concerning departments;
- (f) the DSD held a one-week exhibition at Chevalier Garden in December 2015. He thanked Mr Michael YUNG for his assistance, for making it possible for them to communicate with the newly appointed chairman of the Chevalier Garden OC shortly before, who said a meeting would be called later to discuss monitoring details;

- (g) temporary access arrangement for the works had been gazetted, and no advice had been received from the public for the time being. According to results of their traffic assessment performed at the design stage, the carrying capacity of A Kung Kok Street should be able to accommodate traffic flows from the works. They would build a temporary flyover across A Kung Kok Street at the initial stage for works vehicles, so as to minimise the extra traffic load on A Kung Kok Street;
- (h) it was expected that approximately 25 vehicles would be transporting sludge per day during operation of the new sewage treatment works, which would result in minimum traffic impact on A Kung Kok Street, therefore it would not be a major concern;
- (i) during the construction period, the DSD would add provisions to its works contracts, requiring contractors to take measures to minimise sand and dust produced at work sites, such as regularly activating sprinklers and building fences. The DSD would also engage independent professionals to monitor noise and air quality at different monitoring points in accordance with requirements set out in the environmental assessment report. The monitoring report would be uploaded to the designated webpage of these works as reference for those interested. For the trees, they also did some investigation during the environmental assessment, in addition to relocating some of the suitable trees during the construction period. They would also plant new trees to improve community environment;
- (j) not only had they reduced the work site area to a minimum, they had also agreed earlier to grant two sites at Area 73 for other purposes during the construction period. He was concerned that any additional reduction would affect works progress, which he hoped members could understand; and
- (k) he would communicate and further discuss the suggestion about permanently keeping the cycle tracks and pavements with the Transport Department.

86. Mr LEUNG Hon-wan responded that regarding the estimated project cost, no final budget was available because the project team was now testing different sewage treatment techniques and optimising relevant designs. However, the DSD planned on providing relevant project cost upon fund application for Stage 1 works.

87. The Chairman said that the paper should be put to vote.

88. The Chairman announced that the above paper was endorsed by 15 affirmative votes, 2 dissenting votes, 1 abstention vote and 3 members not casting a vote.

Review of Drainage Master Plan in Sha Tin and Sai Kung - Feasibility Study - Briefing on Recommended Drainage Improvement Works in Sha Tin District
(Paper No. HE 5/2018)

89. Ms YUEN Ka-wai, Senior Engineer / Flood Control of the DSD briefly introduced the paper.

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

- (a) while the backflow of Shing Mun River was subject to changing weather conditions, it nonetheless affected cycle tracks and pavements. There seemed to be no other option for improvement than building stormwater pumping stations and enhancing drainage capacity. According to the DSD, it undertook a few drainage works in 1999, when it was engaged in flood prevention, as well as mud dredging and settling with the CEDD and the EPD. While she had no doubt that these works made a major difference, she also held the view that much waste and sludge must have accumulated in the river after all these years. However, the DSD did not seem to have any plan for mud dredging; and
- (b) a canal clean-up project was mentioned in the recent news, the said canal was only 2 kilometres long, and the last clean-up took place 15 years ago. As to the Shing Mun River, it would appear that no clean-up or improvement work had been undertaken by the DSD. The only way to address unattended sludge was to keep building flood walls. She therefore found it difficult to support this plan if it did not involve cleaning sludge.

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

- (a) flooding had remained an issue for 30 years. He himself had witnessed backflows as a child, yet it only occurred to the DSD to study and build flood walls today. He asked the DSD whether it was serious about addressing this issue. The old flood walls had been built by the HyD. Even the HyD realised that building flood walls could help address the issue. He asked why it took the DSD so long to come up with this plan, not to mention the fact that it failed to present a comprehensive solution to flood prevention. He said that he felt sorry for the DSD;
- (b) there were both stormwater pumping stations and storage tanks at Sheung Wan. He had once enquired the DSD whether it was possible to enlarge stormwater pumping stations to serve as storage tanks. Yet, the DSD rejected the proposal, claiming that it would require three times the space. He opined that the DSD might consider using parks instead. He asked whether it would be possible to negotiate with the LCSD about using this park, and ask the LCSD to build its park elsewhere;
- (c) he requested the DSD to undertake sludge dredging, and yet the DSD indicated that the responsibility fell on the CEDD. He enquired whether it was necessary for members to report this to the Director of the CEDD;
- (d) he enquired whether the paper ought to be put to vote. If not, then these works – the investment in which he considered to be less than justified – would carry on following consultation, so it was rather pointless. While the DSD often wanted members to show their support, it however, failed to address members' requests. Take the paper about cavern-based sewage treatment works as an example, the DSD would not even agree to his simple request to hold a briefing for the OC and residents of Chevalier Garden, which was why he voted against the motion just then;

- (e) staff from the consulting firms seemed to be under the impression that residents of the Sha Tin District had been used to flooding. He disagreed with this view; and
- (f) since this feasibility study had already been completed, he enquired whether it could be disclosed to the public.

92. The views of Mr TONG Hok-leung were summarised below:

- (a) the works comprised three parts. He had reservations about building flood walls on both sides of Shing Mun River, for in addition to spoiling the view there, the effectiveness was also doubtful. He opined that these works would be quite costly. If the DSD intended to make them effective, it might not necessarily be cost-effective;
- (b) while the paper showed that building flood walls was a common practice in the past, it was however, not a consistent one. He therefore suggested that the DSD should study why flood walls had been built in the past;
- (c) works covering the entire Shing Mun River would have to be treated as a whole, including upstream works and mud dredging; and
- (d) he suggested that the DSD should build tide gates at the estuary of the Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works or Tolo Channel. If feasible, it might also consider developing hydropower systems.

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

- (a) as shown in figure 4, he asked whether the four different circumstances and corresponding arrangements were based on three assumptions: first, sludge at the river bottom remained the same, that is, no increase; second, there would be no land reclamation at Sha Tin Hoi; third, there would be no significant climate change. In case of actual changes to the above three assumptions, he enquired about the necessity to adjust all the four circumstances mentioned in the paper;
- (b) as to flood walls, he enquired the DSD why it proposed to have one side fully enclosed, while leaving openings for the other; and
- (c) he was concerned about subways. He enquired whether the flood walls would be able to stand extreme weather conditions or rising tides, so as to prevent flooding to subways, which might harm public safety. In addition to flood walls, whether the DSD had considered other options, and if yes, why it chose to build flood walls only.

94. Mr Tiger WONG enquired of the DSD whether the future land reclamation in Ma On Shan had been part of the assessment in its feasibility study, and whether there would be the possibility that future land reclamation might increase river bed levels and affect this plan.

95. Mr LAI Tsz-yan enquired the DSD how it would deal with seawater that back-flowed to subways during a rising tide. While the DSD claimed that flooding to subways would only

occur a few times on an annual basis, his knowledge however, stated otherwise. Take the subway opposite Belair Gardens as an example, it was flooded every year during the monsoon season, and the DSD would install pumps to pump out water, which then back-flowed from outfalls. He enquired whether flood walls would help solve this issue.

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

- (a) the locations marked in black in figure 7 indicated the existing flood walls, while those in yellow were built afterwards. He enquired about the reason why flood walls had been built only at where marked in black in the past, and whether past consideration was inadequate so that additional walls had to be built now. As there were no flood walls at the subway near Jat Min Chuen, he asked why they were not built at the same time in the past; and
- (b) a project as large as the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge was built using a depressed design, and Shing Mun River would not be more difficult that project. He asked whether it would be possible to consider building subways at the river bottom or otherwise having water removed from Shing Mun River, so as to de-silt the watercourse. He also asked why the DSD did not come up with a comprehensive and long-term solution. In addition, since construction at public roads would affect traffic, he asked why construction could not be carried out on the river.

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

- (a) the subway outside Regal Riverside Hotel had been flooded to the top, posing danger to pedestrians. He enquired whether flood walls would be effective during extreme weather conditions, and he enquired whether flood walls would be adequate, and if not, how this issue was to be resolved; and
- (b) as the land reclamation at Ma Liu Shui might increase the sea level of Sha Tin Hoi, he enquired of the DSD whether it had considered this possibility, and whether it would report to other departments if sea level did become higher.

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

- (a) he believed that members would all agree on using public funds for environmental improvement. The Sha Tin District had long suffered from flooding, and he had mentioned at the last meeting with the DSD that people were most concerned about drowning in subways;
- (b) as causes for flooding at subways might include ineffective flood walls and backflow at outfalls, people were not enthusiastic about building more flood walls. To withstand extreme weather conditions, flood walls might need to be as tall as 1.5 metres, and yet this would damage the view of the entire Shing Mun River. Members had been requesting the DSD to come up with other more effective solutions, such as building footbridges to replace subways or introducing a pre-warning mechanism, which would be more economically effective. Members would also like the DSD to properly perform its daily duties, like cleaning sludge;

- (c) as the Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works were about to be relocated, and the current location was an estuary, he enquired whether tide gates could be built there; and
- (d) the same consulting firm performed feasibility studies for a number of the DSD works. Regarding related papers, if all feasibility studies had been completed, then he would be worried, as the amount of information contained was overwhelmingly inadequate.

99. The views of the Chairman were summarised below:

- (a) as the eastern bank was at greater risk of subway flooding, he enquired whether no water would backflow to subways at the eastern bank following completion of the flood walls, regardless of the water level. He asked this because otherwise, it would appear that building flood walls did not really help. In addition to flood walls, he asked whether the DSD had any other solutions;
- (b) one of the project under STDC's Signature Project Scheme was to promote water-friendly culture by building a walkway opposite the Sha Tin Sports Ground, which would be extended to the top of Shing Mun River. He enquired of the DSD how it would ensure smooth implementation of this plan while building flood walls. In addition, there was no guarantee that residents at the western bank would support building flood walls, since the walls would affect the riverside view, creating a sense of distance to Shing Mun River;
- (c) he enquired whether the DSD would communicate with the CEDD to learn more about sludge clean-up, and the possibility for enhancement. While the DSD stressed that subways were managed by the HyD, the HyD however, did not appear to have been involved in the plan at all. He hoped that the HyD would participate in the next feasibility study report, for members were most concerned about safety at subways; and
- (d) the DSD had the relevant research data. He enquired of the DSD whether such data could be provided to members for reference, and if not, they might consider writing a letter of request to the DSD for its submission. Furthermore, he also hoped that the initial estimates could be provided for reference.

100. Ms YUEN Ka-wai gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) as to cleaning up sludge at Shing Mun River, downstream works were primarily overseen by the CEDD. The CEDD would measure seabed levels biannually, and perform clean-up when they were higher than the pre-set levels. The CEDD had already arranged clean-up for a section of Shing Mun River at Garden Rivera in mid-2016, and it would clean another section of the Shing Mun River at Pictorial Garden this year;
- (b) the DSD was responsible for the upstream section near Man Lai Court, with the last clean-up took place in 2017. The DSD would arrange for another clean-up this year to maintain its drainage capacity;

- (c) he believed that cycle tracks, pavements and subways at the riverside of Shing Mun River were built at a relatively lower ground level, so that the public could enjoy the river view closely. Given their low-lying locations, cycle tracks, pavements and subways at the riverside of Shing Mun River would all be subject to flooding during astronomical high tides or monsoons. Flood walls were built to prevent flooding caused by astronomical high tides and monsoons;
- (d) Typhoon Hato brought extreme weather conditions to Hong Kong. As it came during an astronomical high tide, the combined effect resulted in dramatic increase in sea levels. In order to survive storm surges caused by strong tropical cyclones, like Typhoon Hato, flood walls would have to be built at a height of at least 1.5 metres. However, excessive height of the flood walls would block the view of Shing Mun River;
- (e) under extreme weather conditions, Shing Mun River should never rise above the roads and residential areas on both sides. In light of the low-lying locations of cycle tracks, pavements and subways of Shing Mun River, the DSD would be concerned about pedestrian safety during typhoons. It had therefore discussed temporary measures for future typhoon seasons with relevant departments, including the HyD and the CEDD. Since people would have to get off at the bus station and walk through a subway to go across Tai Chung Kiu Road for the time being, the DSD would therefore, collaborate with other departments to study remedial measures, such as the feasibility of building permanent facilities to prevent water from flowing into subways, replacing subways with footbridges or introducing pre-warning systems. The DSD would take all suggestions collected at this meeting into consideration, and subsequently consult the STDC on the feasible and suitable plans;
- (f) flood walls were built by different departments. As to the section of Tai Chung Kiu Road, driven by the flooding in 2011, the HyD extended flood walls there for another 200 metres;
- (g) the consulting firm in charge of the land reclamation at Ma Liu Shui had already performed an initial impact assessment on water discharge, while the DSD had commented on the assessment result. The CEDD undertook to submit a detailed report on water discharge impact at the next stage;
- (h) regarding underground stormwater pumping stations, storage tanks would be considered and reviewed when the Department came up with a detailed design; and
- (i) while the DSD was unable to submit the feasibility study report for the time being, it would consider relevant requests.

101. Mr CHAN Chi-wai, Director of the AECOM Asia Company Limited gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) review of the drainage master plan in Sha Tin and Sai Kung commenced in 2013, in which hydraulic performance of Shing Mun River had already been analysed. Shing Mun River was affected by tidal force, with a natural riverbed

extended to Tolo Harbour. A 2-level design was adopted for its banks: the first level comprised cycle tracks and pavements, while traffic lanes were located at the bank top. Based on this design, when water level rose at Tolo Harbour, cycle tracks and pavements on the first level would be flooded; however, even under extreme weather conditions, the river water would not rise above roads and residential areas on both sides to cause flooding;

- (b) tides were extremely high during winter, which were over 2.8mPD, and yet for the cycle tracks and pavements, they were only 2.7mPD. Therefore, flooding was caused by tidal height. Over the past decade, there were 43 times in which the tidal height exceeded 2.7mPD, representing, in average, about three or four floods per annum;
- (c) at the eastern bank, 800mm flood walls had been built along the riverside cycle tracks and pavements. However, as there were gaps in the flood walls, water would reach cycle tracks, pavements and subways through these gaps when water level rose above the height of cycle tracks and pavements. It was therefore suggested in the review study that additional walls should be built to fill up the gaps. Since the existing flood walls were 800mm high, it was suggested that the new flood walls should be of the same height, so that they could withstand water levels of 3.5mPD. It was considered that the flood walls ought not to be too high, for they might block the view;
- (d) different plans had been considered in the review study, including building tidal gates at the estuary. After referring to a considerable number of overseas cases, it was concluded that while tidal gates could block the tide from Tolo Harbour, major stormwater pumping stations would also need to be built at the Shing Mun River, leading to extremely high costs. In addition, the DSD also considered the plan for building drainage tunnels. As the main problem in the Sha Tin District was tidal inflow, drainage tunnels would not effectively solve the problem of flooding resulting from rising tidal levels;
- (e) in a word, neither tidal gates nor drainage tunnels would be the most cost-effective plan to protect cycle tracks and pavements from flooding under extreme weather conditions. The two methods would not be economically efficient either;
- (f) there were currently no flood walls at the western bank, since areas near the park were more frequently accessed by the public. It was therefore also suggested that flood walls with the same height as those on the eastern bank should be built;
- (g) a number of factors had also been considered in the mathematical model established in the review study, such as sludge, reclamation and climate change;
- (h) as to the flooding on Sha Tin Centre Street, technically speaking, while it was possible to replace stormwater pumping stations with storage tanks, this would however, require a land area three times as large as that of a stormwater pumping station. As a result, it was suggested in the review study that stormwater pumping stations should be built instead, for it was the most

suitable and most economically efficient plan. Furthermore, most drainage pipes used in the Sha Tin District were of adequate drainage capacity; and

- (i) Shing Mun River was built many years ago, and the flood walls were built by different government departments. Therefore, the DSD had no information about the construction of flood walls.

“E-Fill” Hospital Authority Drug Refill Services Pilot Programme
(Paper No. HE 6/2018)

102. Ms NGAN Man-shan, Senior Pharmacist of the Hospital Authority (HA) briefly introduced the paper.

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

- (a) she was concerned about the HA’s overall drug services. She said that she herself had already consulted users about this programme, who told her that they were a little bit worried. While the elderly would not need to go to the hospital in person, they still needed to ask someone to collect drugs for them, and that might not be convenient. She asked if it would be possible to enhance the existing pharmacy service, like giving detailed instructions, to enhance medication safety;
- (b) since only qualified target patients would be eligible to participate in this HA-led programme, she asked how many patients would participate in it and how much the HA would invest. In case a patient needed to have follow-up consultation after 6 months, as there might be changes in relevant drugs, how the pharmacists would know that the drugs were effective to the patients;
- (c) some of the hospitals were worried that this programme might drive patients who previously only visited the hospitals twice a year to pay multiple visits in a year, and thus increasing the burden of the hospitals;
- (d) as medication safety was crucial, she urged the HA to clearly explain all side effects to patients when they collected drugs;
- (e) the HA stated that it would use audio recording or messages to remind people of drug collection. As the elderly either knew very little about mobile phones or could not hear very well, she enquired of the HA how it would remind them of follow-up consultation;
- (f) the government had mentioned about collaboration between public and private sectors. The HA should therefore collaborate with community pharmacists, and hopefully private pharmacies could offer their assistance. She enquired about the current waiting time for drug collection, and urged the HA to enhance relevant services and shorten the waiting time;
- (g) she enquired whether the HA already required for prescriptions to be integrated for patients at the moment, or only certain hospitals offered this service; and

- (h) she made the following suggestion:

“I strongly request the HA to enhance the existing pharmacy consultation service as a whole and shorten the waiting time, as well as further improve and implement a collaboration scheme between public and private sectors as soon as practicable.

Relevant stakeholders should be thoroughly consulted about the “E-Fill” Programme to enable its effective promotion, with a view to ensuring medication safety for patients.”

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

- (a) “E-Fill” appeared to have indicated a lack of resources and manpower at public hospitals. As shown in the briefing, this programme aimed to serve patients aged 60 or above attending Medical Specialist Outpatient Clinics. These patients had multiple hospital admissions in between appointments and took many kinds of drugs, and their conditions were moderate. Since the HA would subsequently engage pharmacists to monitor medication by patients, he asked why the HA did not increase frequency of the follow-up consultation if the patients were prescribed with different kinds of drugs in the interval;
- (b) he asked how the patients should handle the old drugs already collected if a doctor prescribed different kinds of drugs for a patient. Some of the elderly were not so good at using mobile phones. If text messages were the primary form of communication for this programme, he asked how these patients could be reminded to collect their drugs on time. Sometimes, the elderly would not feel comfortable without talking with the doctor for a while. Furthermore, he enquired what kinds of drugs would be covered by the programme, and whether certain kinds of drugs would be excluded; and
- (c) according to the paper, a pharmacist would first review patients’ medication records, evaluate and integrate prescriptions, and then called to follow up their conditions or arranged for consultation. Now as health records were shared among public and private institutions, he asked why the HA could not have prescriptions integrated before discharging patients from hospitals. If relevant health records had already been incorporated into the HA’s system, a doctor would not adjust prescription without checking them. Then why this programme would require pharmacists to adjust the drugs.

105. Mr Tiger WONG said that in some cases patients might not follow the instructions given because they felt that the drug was not effective after taking them for a while. Doctors had no way of knowing whether their patients took the drug as instructed. He asked whether the launch of this programme would allow doctors more time to learn about their patients. He asked whether the HA would consider enhancing collaboration between public and private sectors to shorten the time required for drug collection.

106. Ms TUNG Kin-lei said that medication safety was extremely important. This programme could prevent the elderly from hoarding drugs, so it was well-intended. To the elderly and nurses, increased frequency in drug collection would result in higher stress. She had once queued up for over an hour to collect drugs for an old lady. She enquired whether

the promotion of collaboration between public and private sectors could be accelerated to shorten the waiting time for drug collection.

107. The Chairman enquired whether this programme would require patients to go home and take their drugs before coming to the hospital for follow-up assessment. He proposed a scenario in which a patient went to see another doctor after collecting drugs from a certain doctor, who did the initial diagnosis. He enquiring whether the second doctor would check the drugs prescribed by the first, and write another prescription as an integration.

108. Ms NGAN Man-shan gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the HA took medication safety of patients very seriously. It therefore wished to enhance existing pharmacy service, stay updated on changes in patient conditions, explain in detail correct drug-related knowledge to patients, and enhance medication safety through the programme in question;
- (b) the HA did allocate additional resources to promote this programme. Even if a patient had a follow-up consultation in another 16 weeks, a pharmacist would first learn about his/her latest condition before proceeding with the refill at the interval of about 8 weeks. For patients participating in this programme, their pharmacists would also integrate prescriptions if the patients were admitted to hospital during an interval or switched to another clinic;
- (c) in response to assistance from residential care homes for the elderly, she said that the HA had already contacted elderly homes for negotiation before promoting the programme. For the time being, the HA had formed a visiting medical service team for the elderly, providing diagnostic services to patients at different hospitals. The elderly homes also collected drugs for their elderly on a regular basis. The programme would therefore not have any major impact on either elderly homes or patients, let alone increasing their burdens;
- (d) prescriptions for elderly patients whose conditions kept changing would often be adjusted during admission to hospital. The HA would help integrate their prescriptions at the interval between two follow-up consultations. Through this service, the HA aimed at providing and enhancing targeted counselling on medication. Patients of this group were selected, basing on the data collected on a trial basis;
- (e) as to the collaboration between public and private sectors, the HA aimed to provide professional pharmacy support through this pilot programme, enhance communication between pharmacists and their patients, and change the culture of medication. Having analysed all data collected, the HA would assess the performance of this programme as part of its consideration about the feasibility of extending the programme to cover private service providers;
- (f) the dates for patients to collect their drug would be indicated in their Refill Prescription Coupons. Text messages only served as an additional reminder. The elderly could also choose not to receive them; and
- (g) during diagnosis, doctors would first use the Electronic Health Record Sharing System operated by the Hong Kong Government to learn about the medication

records of their patients, which would be integrated when prescribing new drugs. Sometimes, a doctor might prescribe a certain kind of drug for 9 months right away, and adjust either the dosage or drug later. The patient might end up with an excessive amount of old drugs, creating a rather confusing situation. In light of this, under the programme, pharmacists would be required to integrate their patients' drugs before proceeding with the refill, as well as help patients have a better understanding of their drugs and the proper way to take them, so as to enhance medication safety.

109. Dr Benjamin LEE, Clinical Stream Coordinator (Pharmacy) of New Territories East Cluster of HA gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) residential care homes for the elderly started to implement this programme in December. Doctors and pharmacists had explained the programme to them, and the implementation was smooth for the time being. Drug dosages for ranged between 8 weeks (minimum) and 16 weeks (maximum), and the HA would keep an eye on all participating residential care homes;
- (b) on the good side, as far as patients were concerned, any time given to them for consulting doctors was precious. As a result, if a previous 6-month prescription was shortened to 3 months now, a patient would have one more chance to meet with his/her pharmacist, who would notice from the system if another hospital had made any changes to the prescription during the interval. The pharmacist would then contact the patient and his/her family to learn about any issue with taking the drugs, and offer explanations when needed. There would be some noticeable difference from the previous practice of prescribing drugs for 6 months in one go;
- (c) as to the disposal of old drugs, as far as HA patients were concerned, the HA would be more than happy if they brought their old drugs back, which would then be dealt with by relevant hospitals in accordance with ordinances of the EPD. Residential care homes on the other hand, were advised to contact the EPD or use their own discretion;
- (d) regarding the waiting time, the Pharmacy of PWH already launched the "Express Queue Dispensing" programme in February 2016, which had successfully shortened the overall waiting time for drug collection. In the past, the average waiting time for a patient collecting one single drug was 60 minutes, and 2 hours during peak time. Under the programme, the time required had been reduced to 10 to 15 minutes. The PWH would serve approximately 1 700 patients waiting to collect drugs on a daily basis, among which about 500 were under the category of "single prescription". This arrangement did not affect the waiting time of other patients with "multiple prescriptions". The overall waiting time of patients collecting drugs had been shortened to approximately 40 minutes; and
- (e) before re-filing drugs for patients, this system would display any change made to their prescriptions during the interval, which would be used by pharmacists for assessment and integration. If changes were made to the drugs of an admitted patient, relevant staff would contact the patient to ask him/her to see if private consultation had been sought and other drugs had been taken during

the interval, with a view to gaining a better understanding about the patient's medication. He hoped that this programme would provide a more comprehensive drug assessment and integration service, as well as take the collaboration between public and private sectors into serious consideration.

Questions

Question to be Raised by Mr WAI Hing-cheung on Noise Nuisance Caused by Mass Transit Railway Affecting Residents in Sha Tin and Tai Wai
(Paper No. HE 7/2018)

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

- (a) he received complaints from residents during the second half of 2017. He was aware that new trains had been put into service during the period, asking whether the noise came from those new trains. As to the Ma On Shan Line, its former 4-car trains had been replaced by 8-car trains since 2017, and yet the MTR only stated in the paper that it would check the noise levels during operation, meaning that it did not monitor noise levels after the end of train service. He asked when the new trains would be examined;
- (b) the MTR claimed that rails and wheels were subject to regular grinding. He therefore enquired about the frequency of grinding;
- (c) the MTR claimed that it would pay attention to new technologies in the market. He therefore enquired of the MTR whether it had introduced any new product to reduce noise over the past three years;
- (d) some residents found that the trains kept making noise at night after the end of train service, for example, amplifiers on the platforms would make certain sound between 2:00 am and 4:00 am, somehow louder than that made during daytime;
- (e) the train service in Japan was advanced and satisfactory, even with its high frequency and proximity to residential areas, the country remained a quiet place. He asked why the MTR could not do something that the Japanese could. He asked whether it was because the MTR used outdated technologies, and whether it had studied the performance of train service in Japan;
- (f) he asked whether it would be possible for the MTR to measure the noise levels at black spots on a quarterly or monthly basis. In so doing, even if the noise levels complied with regulatory requirements, the comparison would show whether noise levels had increased; and
- (g) he suggested that MTR should meet with residents on a regular basis, for example, it could form a community liaison group to enhance communication with residents of those estates near MTR Sha Tin Station that had long been disturbed by noise nuisance. If the MTR failed to do so, he said that he would gather all residents affected and then contact the MTR.

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

- (a) as shown in line 3 of paragraph 2 in the EPD's response, the Department visited premises of the complainants to measure the noise levels. The results showed that the noise levels recorded there from the MTR trains did not exceed the statutory limit. He enquired about the background decibel level, the highest and average decibel levels recorded when trains went by, as well as the statutory limit;
- (b) as the EPD stated that it had been informed that the MTR also monitored the noise levels of its trains (including those put into service recently), the details would need to be disclosed by the MTR. He enquired of the EPD what information it would expect the MTR to disclose. Based on the information available to him, the replacement of 4-car trains with 8-car trains for the Shatin to Central Link (SCL) or Ma On Shan Line had been subject to environmental assessments, and the installation of additional noise barriers (e.g. those located opposite Fok On Garden) was required under the environmental assessment reports. He urged the EPD to disclose the results of the environmental assessment reports, and asked whether the Department had any plan to perform any further examination;
- (c) there were certain differences between the East Rail Line and Ma On Shan Line at some sections. He was aware that while no noise insulation materials were used for rails of the East Rail Line, but noise absorptive materials were used at most sections of the Ma On Shan Line to reduce noise. He enquired how much noise such materials could reduce;
- (d) the MTR used trains made in the U.K., Japan and China. Motor cars for old trains were not equipped with acoustic panels. He enquired about the decibel levels that these trains produced, and for the new trains, by how much the decibel levels would be reduced;
- (e) the EPD used the average value as its benchmark, meaning it was likely that noise levels were extremely high during a certain period, but quite low in the others. However, it ought to be considered as noise nuisance as long as it woke residents up;
- (f) the EPD said that it was up to the MTR to decide how to reduce noise, such as installing acoustic panels for cars, using noise absorptive materials for rails, or installing noise barriers nearby. In fact, it could also slow down the trains; and
- (g) he asked the MTR to submit information about specific locations with speed limit for both the East Rail Line and Ma On Shan Line, the noise levels of Korean-manufactured trains, and the number of speed-limit orders issued by the EPD.

112. Mr LAI Tsz-yan said that most complaints that he received in the middle of last year were about the section between MTR Sha Tin Wai Station and City One Station. As Shatinpark Stage I Ashley Garden was only about 20 metres away from the rails, residents living on high floors were most affected by noise nuisance there. The EPD did measure noise levels at that time, which did not exceed the limit. However, train service of Ma On

Shan Line did not end until 1:00 am, making it difficult for people to sleep. He enquired whether new measures would be taken to reduce noise even if the decibel level did not exceed the limit.

113. The Chairman enquired of the EPD and MTR whether they could provide the information that members required.

114. Mr LEUNG Man-dik, Assistant Public Relations Manager (External Affairs) of MTR gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the replacement of 4-car trains with 8-car trains for the Ma On Shan Line started in January 2017. The MTR continued to examine operation and noise levels of the new trains, and it would take appropriate measure to reduce noise;
- (b) the East Rail Line mainly used mid-life refurbished trains and Japanese-manufactured trains, while those to be commissioned for the SCL would be brand new;
- (c) as to grinding, it was a regular practice. Additional grinding might also be arranged to reduce noise as and when requested by residents or DC Members. Works such as grinding must be carried out during non-service hours, and therefore residents would hear the noise. However, the MTR would apply for relevant permits with the EPD before commencing relevant works, and it would also post notices at buildings to be affected;
- (d) as to anti-vibration materials used on rails, low-vibrating materials were used when constructing the Ma On Shan Line, and absorptive devices were used beside all platforms and rails. The case was different from that of the East Rail Line;
- (e) as to the noise in the vicinity of Shatinpark, he said that he welcomed Mr LAI Tsz-yan to contact him for follow up action later;
- (f) regular maintenance and repair would be useful, however, he would need to consult other staff about specific measures of noise reduction and reducing noise levels of motor cars;
- (g) as to speed limit, while there were such arrangements for the East Rail Line, they did not have any major impact on the overall journey time; and
- (h) the MTR had various channels to collect opinions from local residents. It welcomed residents to express their views.

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

- (a) the background noise level recorded by the EPD at Sha Tin Plaza was 70.3 decibels and 70.9 decibels when trains arrived. They were more or less the same. However, the EPD did notice and report to the MTR that due to height difference, MTR trains made some noise when passing two junctions. As the

ordinance applied to an average noise for a 30-minute period, it therefore did not set a maximum noise level;

- (b) he would later give a reply to the HEC about the additional noise insulation equipment installed at the Ma On Shan Line following its replacement of 4-car trains with 8-car trains;
- (c) low-vibrating materials had been used for the Ma On Shan Line, with noise absorptive equipment installed near platforms and rails. So any sound would only go upwards, achieving satisfactory performance in noise reduction;
- (d) the EPD review was based on the average 30-minute continuous noise levels, and it would require the MTR to follow up if they exceeded the standards. However, various methods would be feasible for further noise reduction. It was entirely up to the MTR to decide what measures it would adopt; and
- (e) to the best of his knowledge, the East Rail Line operated on 3-train units, with motor car in the middle. To prevent overheating, acoustic panels would not be used during summer.

Information Papers

Sha Tin District Year-end Clean Up 2018

(Paper No. HE 8/2018)

Sha Tin District Anti-rodent Campaign 2018 (First Phase)

(Paper No. HE 9/2018)

Statistical Overview of Sha Tin District Environmental Hygiene Service (as at 30 November 2017)

(Paper No. HE 10/2018)

116. Members noted the above papers.

Date of Next Meeting

117. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at 2:30 pm on 15 March 2018 (Thursday).

118. The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 pm.

Sha Tin District Council Secretariat
STDC 13/15/40

March 2018