

**Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of
the Sha Tin District Council in 2018**

Date : 29 March 2018 (Thursday)
Time : 2:30 pm
Venue : Sha Tin District Council Conference Room
 4/F, Sha Tin Government Offices

Present

	<u>Time of joining the meeting</u>	<u>Time of leaving the meeting</u>
Chairman: Mr HO Hau-cheung, SBS, MH	2:30 pm	6:50 pm
Vice-Chairman: Mr PANG Cheung-wai, Thomas, SBS, JP	2:30 pm	3:39 pm
Members: Mr CHAN Billy Shiu-yeung	2:30 pm	4:33 pm
Mr CHAN Kwok-keung, James	3:19 pm	6:39 pm
Ms CHAN Man-kuen	2:30 pm	6:50 pm
Mr CHAN Nok-hang	2:30 pm	4:33 pm
Mr CHENG Tsuk-man	2:30 pm	5:17 pm
Mr CHING Cheung-ying, MH	2:30 pm	6:50 pm
Mr CHIU Chu-pong, Sunny	2:30 pm	4:33 pm
Mr CHIU Man-leong	2:30 pm	6:50 pm
Mr HUI Yui-yu, Rick	2:46 pm	3:56 pm
Mr LAI Tsz-yan	2:30 pm	6:50 pm
Ms LAM Chung-yan	2:39 pm	6:49 pm
Mr LEE Chi-wing, Alvin	2:30 pm	6:50 pm
Mr LEUNG Ka-fai, Victor	2:30 pm	4:52 pm
Mr LI Sai-hung	2:30 pm	6:50 pm
Mr LI Sai-wing	2:30 pm	3:02 pm
Mr LI Wing-shing, Wilson	2:30 pm	6:50 pm
Mr MAK Yun-pui	2:47 pm	3:28 pm
Mr MOK Kam-kwai, BBS	2:30 pm	3:44 pm
Mr NG Kam-hung	2:30 pm	6:50 pm
Ms PONG Scarlett Oi-lan, BBS, JP	2:30 pm	5:37 pm
Mr PUN Kwok-shan, MH	2:30 pm	3:26 pm
Mr SIU Hin-hong	2:30 pm	5:09 pm
Mr TING Tsz-yuen	2:30 pm	6:28 pm
Mr TONG Hok-leung	2:30 pm	3:28 pm
Ms TSANG So-lai	3:04 pm	6:20 pm
Ms TUNG Kin-lei	2:30 pm	6:50 pm
Mr WAI Hing-cheung	2:30 pm	6:50 pm
Mr WONG Fu-sang, Tiger	2:30 pm	6:50 pm
Mr WONG Hok-lai	2:30 pm	4:13 pm
Mr WONG Ka-wing, MH	2:40 pm	6:50 pm
Ms WONG Ping-fan, Iris	2:30 pm	6:50 pm
Mr WONG Yue-hon	2:30 pm	6:50 pm
Mr YIP Wing	2:30 pm	6:50 pm
Mr YIU Ka-chun	2:30 pm	4:34 pm
Ms YUE Shin-man	2:42 pm	5:27 pm
Mr YUNG Ming-chau, Michael	2:30 pm	6:50 pm

Secretary: Mr YUEN Chun-kit, Derek

Senior Executive Officer (District Council) /
Sha Tin District Office

In Attendance

Ms CHAN Yuen-man, Amy, JP
Mr WONG Tin-pui, Simon
Mrs MAK LAU Wai-mun, Josephine
Mr Sean LIN

Ms HO Yuet-ping, Jolie

Mr WONG Kwok-wai, Wilson

Mr NG Kok-hung

Mr YUEN Tat-yung, Zorro

Ms CHU Ha-fan, Jessica

Ms KWOK Wai-ying, Candy

Ms HEUNG Ching-ye, Alice

Ms LO Lai-fong, Jackie

Miss CHAN Siu-kin, Ester

Mr LEUNG Cheuk-ming, Rico

Miss NG Sheung-han, Alice

Mrs LEE CHEUNG Yat-wai, Gloria

Mr LAI Wing-chi, Derek

Ms YIP Sau-mei, Joyce

Mr CHAN Kai-lam, Allan

Ms CHENG Siu-ling, Katy
Miss CHENG Yuk-kam, Brenda
Ms LEUNG Wai-shan, Cecilia
Mr HO Kin-nam, David

Title

District Officer (Sha Tin)
Assistant District Officer (Sha Tin)
District Commander (Shatin) / Hong Kong Police Force
Police Community Relations Officer (Shatin District) /
Hong Kong Police Force
OC (District Intelligence Section) (Shatin) /
Hong Kong Police Force
District Lands Officer/Shatin (Acting) (District Lands
Office, Sha Tin) / Lands Department
Administration Assistant/Lands (District Lands Office,
Sha Tin) / Lands Department
Chief Engineer/North 3 /
Civil Engineering and Development Department
District Planning Officer/Shatin, Tai Po and North /
Planning Department
Principal Transport Officer/New Territories /
Transport Department
Chief Leisure Manager (New Territories East) /
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
District Leisure Manager (Sha Tin) /
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Sha
Tin / Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Senior Manager (New Territories East) Promotion /
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Manager (New Territories East) Marketing and District
Activities / Leisure and Cultural Services Department
District Social Welfare Officer (Shatin) /
Social Welfare Department
District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Sha
Tin) / Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Chief School Development Officer (Sha Tin) /
Education Bureau
Chief Manager/Management (Tai Po, North and
Sha Tin) / Housing Department
Chief Liaison Officer / Sha Tin District Office
Senior Liaison Officer (East) / Sha Tin District Office
Senior Liaison Officer (West) / Sha Tin District Office
Executive Officer I (District Council)1 /
Sha Tin District Office

In Attendance by Invitation

Mr TONG Chi-keung, Donald, JP

Title

Permanent Secretary for the Environment/
Director of Environmental Protection

In Attendance by Invitation

Mr WONG Yiu-kwong, Ken

Mr LEE Chee-kwan

TitlePrincipal Environmental Protection Officer (Regional North) / Environmental Protection Department
Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional North)4 / Environmental Protection Department**Absent**

Mr YAU Man-chun

(Application for leave of absence received)

Action

The Chairman welcomed Members and representatives from government departments and organisations to the second meeting of the year.

2. The Chairman informed the meeting that some members of the public, being present as observers, were taking photographs as well as making video and audio recordings.

3. The Chairman, on behalf of the Sha Tin District Council (STDC), welcomed the following representatives to the meeting: Mr Donald TONG, Permanent Secretary for the Environment (PSE)/Director of Environmental Protection (DEP); Mr Ken WONG, Principal Environmental Protection Officer (Regional North); Mr LEE Chee-kwan, Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional North)4 of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD); Mr Wilson WONG, Acting District Lands Officer/Sharing Tin of the District Lands Office, Sharing Tin; Mr Derek LAI, the newly appointed District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Sharing Tin) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD); Mr Rico LEUNG, Senior Manager (New Territories East) Promotion and Miss Alice NG, Manager (New Territories East) Marketing and District Activities of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD).

Application for Leave of Absence

4. The Chairman said that the STDC Secretariat (Secretariat) had received an application for leave of absence in writing from the following Member:

Mr YAU Man-chun

Out of town

5. The Council approved the application for leave of absence submitted by the Member above.

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 25 January 2018

(STDC Minutes 1/2018)

6. The Council confirmed the above minutes unanimously.

Visit of Director of Environmental Protection

7. The Chairman welcomed Mr Donald TONG, PSE/DEP, to the meeting, and invited him to briefly introduce the work of the EPD.

8. Mr Donald TONG briefed Members on the work of the EPD as highlighted below:

- (a) he said that the briefing would mainly cover four areas, namely “Sustainable Use of Resources”, “Air Quality Improvement”, “Water Quality of Victoria Harbour” and “Nature Conservation”;

Sustainable Use of Resources

- (b) to address the waste problem in Hong Kong, the Government had drawn up the “Hong Kong Blueprint for Sustainable Use of Resources 2013-2022” which mapped out comprehensive strategies, goals, policy measures and action plans for waste management over a ten-year period from 2013 to 2022. The Blueprint had set a target of reducing waste by 40 per cent within a decade during which the volume of municipal solid waste (MSW) disposed daily on a per capita basis would be reduced from 1.27 kilogramme (kg) in 2011 to 0.8 kg by 2022. Five strategies had been set out in the Blueprint, including reduction at source, Food Wise Hong Kong, clean recycling, waste-to-energy (WtE) and hygienic landfilling;
- (c) along with population growth and industrial development, the average daily volume of MSW disposed of in Hong Kong was 10 345 tonnes. Food waste still accounted for the largest share thereof, rising from 33 per cent in 2015 to 35 per cent in 2016, followed by waste paper and waste plastics accounting for approximately 21 to 22 per cent of the total quantity of MSW respectively;
- (d) with the support from the majority public after an extensive consultation exercise, the EPD had affirmed the introduction of a quantity-based MSW charging system in Hong Kong, so as to induce behavioural changes among the public through direct economic incentives, thereby reducing the overall quantity of waste disposed. In fact, the MSW charging would involve a lot of implementation details. For some time in the past, the EPD had been liaising with stakeholders of different sectors, including the property management industry, private recyclers, trade associations and the Heung Yee Kuk, etc., to work out its details. The Environment Bureau (ENB) had announced the proposed implementation arrangements for MSW charging in March 2017. Thereafter, more than 90 engagement sessions and activities, including two public forums, had been staged to gauge views of the public, trades and relevant stakeholders. To address the views collected therefrom and to enable the charging mechanism to better uphold the “polluter pays principle”, the ENB had announced in October 2017 the enhanced implementation arrangements for waste charging, including expanding the use of designated garbage bags. The ENB was actively taking forward relevant preparation work, so as to introduce the relevant Bill into the Legislative Council (LegCo) as soon as possible;
- (e) the EPD had launched the \$1 billion Recycling Fund (RF) in 2015, which aimed at facilitating the upgrading of the operational capabilities, processing capacity, efficiency and skills of the recycling industry, as well as exploring the recycled products market, with a view to fostering the sustainable development of the recycling industry, thereby reducing the quantity of waste disposed of at landfills through promotion of waste recovery and recycling. The RF encompassed two components, namely the Enterprise Support Programme and

Industry Support Programme. The former aimed to assist individual recycling enterprises in upgrading and expanding their local waste recycling business through provision of matching funds. The latter provided funding support for non-profit distributing organisations registered in Hong Kong, such as professional bodies, trade and industry organisations, research institutes and other industrial support organisations. To date, a total funding of about \$10 million had been approved. Under the RF, funding support would also be provided to recyclers for procuring necessary equipment (e.g. moulding machine) to convert recyclables into a standard that met the import requirements of the Mainland. Also, recyclers would receive subsidy for the adoption of waste compaction vehicles, with a view to assisting the recycling industry in reducing transportation costs and enhancing the efficiency of transportation;

- (f) all along, the EPD had collaborated with the 18 District Councils (DCs), the Environmental Campaign Committee and the Home Affairs Department (HAD) in a concerted manner in implementing the “Community Participation Programme in Environmental Protection in Collaboration with District Councils” in the community. Its theme for 2017/18 was “Use Less, Waste Less and Clean Recycling”. The EPD had allocated \$200,000 to each of the 18 DCs (i.e. \$3.6 million in total) through the HAD for the implementation of projects at district level in accordance with the established funding mechanism;
- (g) on the “Programme on Source Separation of Domestic Waste”, the EPD aimed to encourage more people to practise waste separation for recycling. So far, more than 2 000 residential estates had participated in this Programme and 150 residential estates/buildings thereof were in the Sha Tin District. On the “Programme on Source Separation of Commercial and Industrial Waste”, it had already covered more than 1 000 commercial and industrial (C&I) premises in the territory (including 88 premises in the Sha Tin District);
- (h) on community recycling, the EPD had provided 18 Community Recycling Centres (CRCs) and about 50 non-governmental organisation (NGO) Recycling Points across the territory. Also, waste collection boxes had been installed in the premises of participating NGOs for collecting recyclable materials of low recycling values while disseminating the message of environmental protection to members of the public at the same time. Currently, there were three NGO Recycling Points in the Sha Tin District;
- (i) the EPD had implemented the Community Green Stations (CGSs) across the territory with the aim of enhancing environmental education and recycling support at the community level. Currently, five CGSs had been put into service, including the Sha Tin CGS. This initiative would be successively implemented in other districts later on. The Sha Tin CGS as a whole performed well, and the volume of recyclables recovered in the past three years had exceeded the 600 tonnes level as prescribed in the contract. It was expected that 1 300 tonnes of recyclables could be recovered in the coming three years for transferring to suitable recyclers for processing;

- (j) to enhance public awareness of recycling, the EPD had rolled out a new round of publicity and public education campaign to promote clean recycling under the theme “clean recycling of three types of paper and priority recovery of two types of plastic bottles”, with focus on encouraging the general public to practise proper source separation and clean recycling, so as to enhance recyclability of waste and increase the recovery rate;
- (k) regarding the worthiness of recyclables, starting from this year, the EPD had set up an outreach team in each district for providing community-based services in residential estates, so as to assist property management companies (PMCs) in stepping up their waste recovery efforts;
- (l) the EPD was planning to introduce a centralised collection service whereby waste plastic bottles received by the CRCs across the territory would be gathered and then transferred to eligible recyclers for further processing. A pilot programme would be launched first before full-scale implementation territory wide. Besides, the EPD would launch a centralised glass bottle recycling programme for residential estates and the C&I sector;
- (m) the Environment and Conservation Fund under the EPD aimed to provide funding support to non-profit-making organisations for implementing projects and activities in relation to environmental matters, e.g. retrofitting of basic equipment for the implementation of on-site meal portioning by existing schools to reduce the use of disposable meal boxes and installation of facilities under the “Food Waste Recycling Projects in Housing Estates” to encourage the separated collection and recycling of food waste from households. Some schools and residential estates in the Sha Tin District had also participated in the above projects;
- (n) on the transferring and treatment of waste, the EPD had set up three strategic landfills in the North East New Territories, the South East New Territories and the New Territories West respectively. Besides, the T•PARK in Tuen Mun did not resemble any ordinary sludge treatment facility. It had also provided spa facilities. Interested Members were welcome to pay a visit there;
- (o) on collection of food waste and WtE, the Government had planned to establish a network of Organic Resources Recovery Centres (ORRCs). The ORRC Phase 1 at Siu Ho Wan in North Lantau was expected to be up and running shortly. Later on, the EPD would seek funding approval from the LegCo for the construction of the ORRC Phase 2 and 3;
- (p) meanwhile, the EPD had launched the “Food Waste - Sewage Sludge Anaerobic Co-digestion Trial Scheme” as an additional component of the network of ORRC in collaboration with the Drainage Services Department, so as to explore the feasibility of the application of anaerobic co-digestion technology in the treatment of food waste and sewage sludge as a possible treatment route in the short-, medium- and long-term. The Trial Scheme would be conducted at the Tai Po Sewage Treatment Works (STW). During its initial operation, the Food Waste Pre-treatment Facilities would receive

predominately food waste from food factories in the Tai Po Industrial Estate nearby. Subsequently, the scope of food waste collection would be extended to C&I premises and markets in the Tai Po District. If successful, the EPD might extend this technology to other STWs in Hong Kong;

Air Quality Improvement

- (q) on air pollution, the territory's overall air quality had been improved over the past decade. The record indicated that the concentrations of respirable suspended particulates, fine suspended particulates, nitrogen dioxide and sulphur dioxide as recorded by general air quality monitoring stations (AQMSs) in 2017 had been reduced compared with 2008. During the same period, there was an increase in ozone concentration that was relatively susceptible to the influence of regional photochemical smog, indicating that there was still room for improvement in photochemical ozone pollution in the region. To address the ozone problem in the region, Guangdong and Hong Kong would endeavour to reduce emission of nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds (VOC), as well as stepping up efforts in monitoring VOC and scientific research in this field;
- (r) to improve air quality, the EPD had required the power companies to increase the percentage of local gas generation, taken forward the proposal of phasing out pre-Euro IV diesel commercial vehicles and offered tax concession to encourage the use of electric vehicles (EVs) among the public, etc.;
- (s) besides, the EPD had launched the Pilot Green Transport Fund (PGTF) and a pilot scheme on franchised electric buses. As at March 2018, approval had been granted to 118 pilot projects under the PGTF involving a total subsidy of about \$13.1 million, whereas the latter had fully subsidised franchised bus companies to procure single-deck electric buses for trial operation;
- (t) since March 2017, two single-deck supercapacitor buses had been running on Route No. 284 in Sha Tin on a trial basis;
- (u) besides, to reduce emission of pollutants from vessels, the EPD had tightened the relevant standard to cap the sulphur content of locally supplied marine light diesel at 0.05 per cent, and had since 2015 required ocean-going vessels to switch to marine fuel with low sulphur content while at berth in Hong Kong. Hong Kong was the first port in Asia to implement the mandatory "fuel switch at berth", in a bid to improve air quality;

Water Quality of Victoria Harbour

- (v) the EPD was committed to improving the water quality of Victoria Harbour. Over the past two decades, the EPD had been progressively implementing the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme (HATS). With the commissioning of the HATS Stage 1 and 2A in 2001 and 2015 respectively, all sewage around the harbour had been intercepted and diverted to Stonecutters Island STW for chemically enhanced primary treatment and sterilisation before discharged into

the western part of Victoria Harbour. Thanks to the HATS, the cross-harbour swimming competition had been resumed in the western part of Victoria Harbour from 2011 onwards after its suspension since 1979; and it had even returned to the central part of the harbour since 2017;

- (w) since 2010, the water quality of all gazetted beaches in the territory had met the stipulated requirements for bathing. Notwithstanding this, the EPD had commenced in 2016 a two-year consultancy study on how to further address the pollution and odour problems arising from the discharge of residual pollutants into the urban coastal waters, with a view to putting forward pragmatic and specific measures to prevent and control pollution at source. At the same time, the EPD would also undertake sewer construction and rehabilitation of some trunk sewers to improve the quality of near-shore waters;

Nature Conservation

- (x) the EPD had taken forward a three-step plan through legislation for phasing out the local ivory trade by 2021 as well as increasing the penalties on smuggling and illegal trade in endangered species; and
- (y) on countryside conservation, the EPD would set up a Countryside Conservation Office to co-ordinate conservation projects of remote countryside areas, with a view to promoting their sustainable development. An allocation of \$1 billion had been earmarked for implementing relevant conservation initiatives and revitalisation projects.

9. The Chairman thanked Mr Donald TONG for briefing Members on the EPD's work, and asked Members to voice their opinions. Only one round of speaking would be allowed in case there was an excessive number of Members giving views.

10. The Vice-Chairman felt delighted about the resumption of the cross-harbour swimming competition at Victoria Harbour and improvement in water quality. In fact, many residents wished to swim in Shing Mun River Channel. Despite that the EPD had often stated that its water quality had met the prescribed standard, actually the water at the Shing Mun River basin was of varying quality. In the 90s, the EPD had taken the lead in improving the water quality of Shing Mun River Channel. At that time, it was considered that given a substantial amount of sludge on the river bed, its water quality would be adversely affected by desludging works; therefore, nothing could be done. Nowadays there should be alternative approaches to deal with this problem, e.g. burying the sludge under river bed. He asked whether there was any solution to completely remove the sludge given that thousands of dead fish were found floating on the river two or three times a year, and even white foamy water had been discharged into the riverway at Fo Tan. Moreover, paddlers had suffered from skin allergies after taking part in dragon boat races at Shing Mun River Channel. As such, the EPD should take necessary steps in a proactive manner.

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

- (a) he considered that the EPD had merely confined itself to recovery work. It seemed that waste separation and recovery was less successful after

implementation for over a decade. If well done, the volume of solid waste could have been substantially reduced;

- (b) more than a decade ago, there were already discussions on the disposal options for plastic containers and glass. However, there was a lack of rigorous support for the trade from the EPD, and it had failed to promote the development of scientific research. The EPD was less than willing to use eco-pavers, while the effectiveness of food waste processor was in doubt. As the majority of the neighbouring cities of Hong Kong had been doing a good job, the EPD should make reference to their experiences; and
- (c) light-emitting diode lamps had fully replaced florescent ones in his residential estate, contributing to energy savings of more than \$2 million. The Government was supposed to take the lead in this replacement exercise, but the EPD had mentioned nothing about renewable energy (RE). He asked why the Government had failed to adopt RE for highways on a trial basis. He hoped that the DEP could adopt a more aggressive approach, and the management company of his residential estate would be more than willing to cooperate with the EPD.

12. The views of Mr CHAN Nok-hang were summarised below:

- (a) the problem of foul odour emission from Shing Mun River Channel had aggravated recently. Residents had reflected that river water was often coloured, and suspected that some restaurants might have poured edible oil into the river. He asked the DEP to step up law enforcement efforts against relevant restaurants;
- (b) on noise nuisance, the results of noise measurement made by the EPD showed that the noise levels at Lion Rock Tunnel Road opposite to Fung Shing Court in his constituency had reached high decibel levels. Given that the decision to construct noise barriers or not rested with the EPD, he hoped that the DEP could follow up accordingly; and
- (c) a newspaper reported that the Sha Tin CGS at Shek Mun was ineffective owing to its inaccessibility. He asked the EPD whether consideration would be given to setting up a fleet for providing waste collection services in various areas in Sha Tin, so as to boost its effectiveness. Even though residents had properly separated the waste beforehand, their efforts would be in vain if cleaners just dumped it into waste collection bins.

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

- (a) regarding the trial scheme on electric buses, electric buses were currently running on Route No. 284 in Sha Tin on a trial basis. He opined that EVs should also be adopted for minibus routes. Given the availability of compact-sized batteries, it was hoped that the EPD could promote the use of electric minibuses in collaboration with the Hong Kong Productivity Council. In fact, there was an existing minibus route plying between Sha Tin and Hong

Kong Science Park (HKSP) which was ready for trial operation of electric minibus as EV chargers had been installed therein; and

- (b) on waste charging, in anticipation of the implementation of this scheme next year, the EPD had yet to give an account of the disposal options for food waste that made up a third of domestic waste. Supposedly the Government's ORRC with a daily processing capacity of less than 1 000 tonnes could hardly cope with the volume of domestic waste. It was hoped that the EPD could explain how the waste would be processed after separation at source, and as to whether the work could be entrusted to private-sector recyclers in order to encourage the participation of small and medium enterprises. Moreover, law enforcement actions had played a crucial role in waste reduction.

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

- (a) despite that the EPD had promoted the use of EVs, indeed EVs were not environmentally friendly either. The acute problem of bicycle-sharing laid in the fact that there was no department willing to assume the responsibility. In case the operator closed down, the bicycles would turn into waste. If the EPD wished to promote environmental protection, bicycle was supposed to be a smart choice. However, it should initiate the legislative process to combat the occupation of public places by bicycles;
- (b) people had persistently engaged in pebble piling activity on the shingle beach in Wu Kai Sha. Some persons who claimed to be environmentalists considered that the act of pebble piling would affect the ecological environment of the shingle beach. This shingle beach was outside the purview of the FEHD, and there were only two signs erected by the Council indicating that pebble piling and swimming were prohibited, which did not have much practical effect. It was hoped that the EPD could take necessary steps accordingly;
- (c) on light pollution, the Charter on External Lighting was not very effective. Instead, the Government should regulate it through legislation as soon as possible. In particular, the impact of indoor lighting on the external environment should also be addressed;
- (d) on waste charging, the German government had launched a refund programme in collaboration with supermarkets and residential estates, whereby people would be offered monetary rewards after depositing waste in reverse-vending machines, in a bid to arouse public awareness of environmental protection. The EPD might consider making reference to this experience; and
- (e) regarding the Student Environmental Protection Ambassador Scheme for secondary and primary schools, he asked the EPD to state its effectiveness. He hoped that this Scheme could be extended to non-profit-making organisations.

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

- (a) he agreed with the DEP's briefing on the EPD's work. On countryside conservation, 7 per cent of the population was not yet provided with public sewerage. Some small houses in villages in Sha Tin were not connected to public sewers either. It was hoped that the Government could dedicate resources for such purpose;
- (b) the ozone problem in Sha Tin was not as serious as other districts. He enquired about the location of the roadside AQMS in Sha Tin. He took it that it was located at Sha Tin Government Secondary School which was quite remote from the highway. All along, the EPD had assessed air quality in collaboration with the Hong Kong Observatory, and launched the Air Quality Health Index since 2013. In this connection, he asked whether a comparison would be made between such data and those of mainland cities; and
- (c) the National Development and Reform Commission had promulgated the arrangement on advancing Hong Kong's full participation in the Belt and Road Initiative. Given its expertise in environmental planning, Hong Kong would be able to offer technologies and services in environmental assessment, green buildings and pollutant treatment, etc., so as to facilitate the implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative. He asked the DEP about the availability of relevant information.

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

- (a) as the Chairman of the owners' corporation (OC) of a residential estate with some 10 000 residents, he supported the Government's environmental protection programmes. With government funding, his residential estate had actively implemented an energy conservation programme as well as the recovery of electric light bulbs and used clothes. The energy conservation programme had contributed to energy savings of more than a hundred thousand dollars since its implementation;
- (b) the Government had been promoting environmental protection. For instance, on food waste recycling, the quantity recovered in 2015-16 seemed to increase gradually. Many residential estates had used compost converted from food waste recovered. However, as there were not so many trees in these estates, the remaining food waste was transferred to landfills, thus wasting taxpayers' money. He asked the EPD whether there had been inadequate supervision in this regard. It was not adequate to merely undertake food waste composting. He asked whether food waste could be provided to the aquaculture industry in Hong Kong for turning it into fish feeds;
- (c) funding would be granted to residential estates in accordance to their respective sizes. A one-off grant would be provided in the first year, and the funding amount would be reduced in subsequent years. Under this arrangement, after procuring food waste composting machines with this one-off grant, many grantees did not have adequate funds to hire workers to operate these machines,

leaving them idle eventually; and

- (d) on the waste paper recovery industry, he learnt that many types of paper products such as magazines were not recyclable. In this regard, he enquired about the disposal options for these unrecyclable paper products.

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

- (a) he said that later on Mr NG Kam-hung would express his concern over the problem of floating refuse carried into Hong Kong waters by ocean currents. He estimated that Hong Kong itself had produced a substantial amount of refuse such as waste plastics. For instance, he was aware that despite that a lot of waste plastics disposed of by his residential estate and schools were not recyclable, cleaners would transfer them to landfills as if they were ordinary rubbish. Moreover, the Mainland had banned the import of waste paper from Hong Kong. There was still room for improvement in the communication between the Government and the Mainland. He asked the EPD whether there were any facilities to process waste plastics and waste paper in Hong Kong;
- (b) he had already visited the EcoPark in Tuen Mun. The recycling industry thereof had operated on a small scale because the business was not viable financially. He asked the Government whether a centralised approach could be adopted to contract out the operation of facilities provided therein. It was not adequate to rely solely on private-sector operators; and
- (c) he had grave reservations over the future implementation of MSW charging under which residents would be charged based on the number of pre-paid garbage bags used. Estate management offices would find it difficult because residents might try every means to dump refuse within their estates to evade charges. He asked the Government how to deal with the situation. He suggested that it would be better to implement estate-based charging as initially proposed, so as to avoid the possible occurrence of environmental hygiene issues.

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

- (a) on food waste recycling, over 30 per cent of household refuse was food waste. A few years ago, the EPD had promoted food waste recycling in collaboration with the Housing Department (HD) and a pilot scheme had been implemented in several housing estates. He was not sure why it was no longer in place. Given that there were some 700 000 households living in public rental housing (PRH) estates in the territory, there was potential for development of food waste recycling. However, the ORRC under the EPD had inadequate processing capacity;
- (b) on waste recycling, in the face of the tightened recovery policy in the Mainland, many recyclers had transferred waste plastic bottles to landfills. He did not understand why only about 120 tonnes of recyclables had been recovered by the Sha Tin CGS last quarter in spite of its good overall

performance as stated by the EPD. He opined that there was plenty of room for improvement, and that the EPD should draw on the experiences of Korea and Taiwan. He asked whether subsidies would be provided to the recycling industry given that the existing landfills would be exhausted in the near future;

- (c) the EPD should proactively promote the RE. The Government intended to develop CRCs, but faced the land issue. There was only one CGS in Sha Tin, which was inadequate to address the needs of a population of 700 000. On the scheme on central collection of waste plastic bottles, he enquired about the steps to be taken by the EPD; and
- (d) on air pollution, he asked whether data of greenhouse gases were available; if not, whether they could be provided later.

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

- (a) as STDC Member of Fo Tan Constituency, she requested the DEP to follow up on, deal with and mitigate the problem of water pollution in Shing Mun River Channel. Its sludge would put the environment as well as the health of water sports athletes at stake. As such, she urged the EPD to carry out desludging work regularly;
- (b) fire extinguishers and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinders had often been disposed of at the refuse collection point near Shan Mei Street, Fo Tan. She asked whether measures could be taken to eradicate this problem;
- (c) previously, the developer of the works site had conducted desludging work at 6A-6D Kwai Tei New Village, Fo Tan, once a year during the construction period. However, the EPD had now stated that no sewerage connection works would be carried out owing to geographical constraint. The affected residents were at a loss to deal with this problem. Despite that the Sha Tin District Office (STDO) had proactively provided assistance, she hoped that other government departments could also assist these four households in solving the problem;
- (d) she enquired whether the EPD could collect expired drugs from the 18 districts regularly. If the elderly had kept excessive amount of expired drugs at home, it might increase the likelihood of hospitalisation due to mistaken consumption. Last Saturday, she came across an elderly man who had kept more than 100 pills at home that had been left unused over a decade. Besides, drugs thrown into the rubbish bin would probably pollute the environment;
- (e) the Government could consider providing power supply to vessels berthed at piers in Hong Kong, in order to avoid the use of diesel generators;
- (f) on the MSW charging, other than adopting a quantity-based system, she enquired whether members of the public could be encouraged to deliver recyclables to collection points, with a view to enhancing recycling efficiency and lowering collection cost; and

- (g) she asked whether consideration could be given to introducing inexpensive food waste processors with sludge wash-off function currently used in foreign countries.

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

- (a) she agreed that roadside air quality could be improved if there were fewer diesel vehicles on the carriageways, and more EVs and buses were adopted. She opined that the progress had been so slow. Citing the electric buses operating Route No. 284 in the Sha Tin District as an example, since commencement of the study in 2001, the trial operation on a short-haul route had just begun in Hong Kong since 2017. Over the last decade, generations of EV models had already been rolled out by BYD Company Limited. It was hoped that the EPD could review in this regard and expedite the use of EVs in public transport services;
- (b) the existing complementary facilities had failed to keep abreast with the times for promoting the development of EVs. Although the DEP stated that there were more than 1 800 public EV chargers across the territory, it had accounted for only 10 per cent of over 11 000 EVs in Hong Kong. Moreover, not all of them supported fast-charging. As such, she enquired about the steps to be taken by the EPD to assist EV owners;
- (c) some EV owners reflected that owing to the tedious administrative procedures and exorbitant costs, their attempts to urge for installation of EV chargers in private residential estates had been in vain. Even though the cost issue could be solved, they were unable to address relevant legal issues put forth by OCs. However, government support in this aspect was lacking. Despite that the Government had provided subsidies for procuring EVs, it had failed to consider the practical need that EV owners had to park their cars inside their estates instead of travelling to HKSP for charging before use. It was hoped that the Government could include the requirement for provision of a fixed proportion of EV chargers in new residential development projects; and
- (d) she learnt that to foster the development of EVs, the Government had previously amended the relevant ordinance to offer gross floor area concessions to newly constructed car parks with EV chargers, with a view to encouraging developers to put in place EV charging infrastructure in new development projects. However, there had been no supervision as to whether those development projects which had benefited from the aforesaid measure had actually put in place the relevant installation. For instance, the developer of Kings Wing Plaza in Shek Mun had failed to provide power connection for EV chargers in the car park, and had no plans to open it for public use either. Instead, after reaping benefits of the concessions, it had offered parking spaces for sale at \$2 million each, while there were only five to six hourly parking spaces available for public use. In this regard, she asked the EPD how this loophole could be plugged.

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

- (a) among a number of items mentioned by the DEP, residents in his constituency were more concerned about the recovery of plastic containers and food waste. On food waste disposal, it seemed that the DEP had not gone into details about this aspect. Previously Sun Tsui Estate in his constituency was one of the PRH estates chosen for the implementation of a food waste recycling trial scheme launched by the HD. Despite that there were only two recycling bins shared by eight building blocks, there was an overwhelming response from residents, and they did not mind the recycling bins were a bit far away. However, this recycling initiative had been terminated upon conclusion of the trial scheme. As such, he asked whether food waste recycling would be vigorously promoted in PRH estates in the future, and whether arrangements would be made for the processing of recovered domestic food waste at the facilities in Siu Ho Wan; and
- (b) on the disposal of plastic containers, owing to poor management of 3-coloured recycling bins (3-coloured bins) outside and high cost of plastic recovery, many people had used 3-coloured bins as if they were dustbins. He asked whether education work could be stepped up to encourage the public to properly cleanse plastic containers before throwing them into recycling bins, so as to reduce the recovery cost. There was hearsay that Yan Oi Tong in Tuen Mun had disposed of the plastic containers recovered as if they were refuse eventually. In this regard, he asked the EPD to strengthen education and management.

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

- (a) throughout the briefing, the DEP had failed to go into details about marine conservation. To illustrate his point, he drew Members' attention to a photo featuring the mixing together of polyfoam and palm stearin, and palm stearin pellets had remained in the sand. Given the inflow of palm stearin in 2017, followed by the massive spill of polypropylene plastic pellets in Hong Kong waters, he asked the DEP about the measures adopted to address these problems; and
- (b) another photo taken at Shui Hau, a major mangrove habitat on Lantau Island, featured mangroves draped with many plastic bags. Coupled with the palm stearin leakage incident, the marine environment of Hong Kong had been spoiled. There was a substantial quantity of floating refuse off the waters of Shek O. Plastic containers were non-biodegradable. If the DEP agreed, he would be willing to rent a canoe at his own cost for conducting a site inspection together at Shing Mun River Channel where a constant inflow of refuse, garbage bags containing food waste and floating objects rarely seen in Hong Kong were a common sight. He urged the EPD to pay attention to the source of refuse.

23. The views of Mr Alvin LEE were summarised below:

- (a) he thanked the EPD for making strenuous efforts in environmental protection in the past. He was concerned about fuel prices. Vehicle owners wished to know the performance of the ENB in monitoring fuel prices. In May 2017, a committee had put forward six recommendations, including the display of price signs at petrol filling stations, introduction of petrol of 95 octane rating and provision of additional petrol filling stations, etc., for the EPD's consideration. In this regard, he wished to know the follow-up work undertaken by the ENB. As many people drove to work daily, adjustments in fuel prices and transparency were matters of concern. It was hoped that the ENB could make its follow-up work known to the public;
- (b) it was difficult for the recycling industry to sustain operation. Many recyclers had refused to accept waste paper because it was unprofitable. Also, the EPD had found it difficult to identify recycling sites. It was hoped that the DEP could make efforts in providing more green facilities;
- (c) he asked whether the capacities of landfills would be exhausted within one or two years; if so, whether there were alternative waste disposal options. As for the provision of incinerators, he asked whether the Government had plans in this regard, and wished to know what steps had been taken to follow up on the related judicial review; and
- (d) he was aware that there was an AQMS in Sha Tin. In view of the extensive area of Sha Tin, it was hoped that the EPD could proactively increase the number of AQMSs, especially in Ma On Shan area.

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

- (a) much had been done by the EPD over the last decade; nevertheless, he regarded its work as counterproductive, being more about ideology than substance. Policies had been formulated without setting targets and monitoring;
- (b) despite that the EPD was endowed with abundant resources and funds, very often, it had failed to make the best use of talents. For instance, plastic containers and glass bottles recovered had been transferred to landfills eventually. Instead, he suggested that the EPD had better engage a renowned cleansing contractor because this company had been commissioned by the FEHD to collect a substantial quantity of refuse every day;
- (c) on improvement of air quality, there were some 8 000 pre-Euro IV diesel commercial vehicles due for decommissioning, while Euro V and VI vehicles might not be so popular. On the policy of LPG vehicles, taxi drivers had to wait for a long time for refilling services. He wished to use EV, but did not know where to find EV chargers. His residential estate had 1 900 parking spaces; nevertheless, there was no ultimate consensus reached on the installation of EV chargers. Owing to the significant interests involved, there was a need for the Government to assume a coordination role;

- (d) on the WtE, knowing that the T-PARK in Tuen Mun under the purview of the EPD had generated electricity through waste combustion, he was not sure whether this was an environment or recreational project. As a matter of fact, refuse was a very useful fuel in foreign countries. Norway had imported refuse for power generation with the adoption of advanced technologies, so as to pave way for exports of electricity. He hoped that this public facility was good value for money; and
- (e) he asked the EPD to consider procuring waste compactors for shopping malls given that many shopping malls in foreign countries had been equipped with such a facility.

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

- (a) on the issue of water quality, the DEP had focused on the water quality of Victoria Harbour or beaches in the territory. Given that Shing Mun River Channel was a symbol of Sha Tin, the DEP had failed to elaborate on this. It was not sure whether his colleagues had failed to prepare relevant information or the EPD considered it not necessary to devote too much time to the topic of Shing Mun River Channel. In springtime between end of March and April every year, odour emissions from Shing Mun River Channel had reached the highest level of intensity. Therefore, the residents in Man Lai Court in closest proximity to Shing Mun River Channel had suffered most, and they had grave concern over when the problem could be eradicated;
- (b) on the EVs, the DEP had stated that there were 1 862 public EV chargers across the territory. He believed that not every one of them was available for public use. At least there were two residential estates in his constituency had not allowed non-residents to use EV chargers provided therein. He had recommended the Government to devote resources for installation of EV chargers, so as to encourage the use of EVs; nevertheless, it seemed that the Government had not dealt with it in proactive manner;
- (c) noise pollution was a matter of concern to residents in the Sha Tin District. Traffic noise generated at connection points along the railway line had reached excessively high levels. Given that there were connection points at both ends of Sha Tin Station, residents in the affected estates, including Shatin Plaza, Hilton Plaza, Scenery Court and Wai Wah Centre, etc., had persistently expressed their dissatisfaction. Instead, MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) only stressed that it had been abiding by relevant legislation and the prescribed level had not been exceeded. They could only hope that the enterprise would uphold its corporate social responsibility. He asked the EPD to review whether the existing legislation had been outdated or not; if so, consideration should be given to amending it, so that this corporation was obliged to deal with the problem squarely; and
- (d) on light pollution, there was no existing legislation regulating this aspect. However, quite many residents had suffered adverse effects of light pollution.

Despite that the Government had requested sizeable organisations to sign up to the Charter, different institutions instead of these sizeable organisations alone had given rise to light pollution. It was hoped that the EPD should pay attention to this.

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

- (a) he was aware of the extensive ambit of the EPD, primarily revolving around clothing, food, accommodation and transportation. In view of the fact that the Government had concentrated its efforts on the provision of additional recycling bins or waste paper recycling, etc., he considered that the EPD should plan for waste reduction at source and consider encouraging businesses to offer repaired electrical appliances and furniture products for sale on a barter basis. Frugality and quality of life could be contradictory or compatible, depending on the approach adopted by the Government in dealing with the issue;
- (b) it was hoped that the EPD could step up patrol over the countryside in collaboration with other relevant departments. In the absence of the EPD's patrolling officers, there would be a considerable amount of scrap vehicles and construction waste left unattended over time. Thus, resources had to be devoted for the purpose of waste disposal; and
- (c) full implementation of the plastic bag charging was necessary upon enactment of the relevant legislation, so as to forestall chaos previously caused by the imposition of a levy of 50 cents on plastic shopping bags (PSBs). Despite that customers were required to pay 50 cents for each PSB used under the levy scheme, many companies had charged more than this but there was no legislation regulating this malpractice. Although this was a minor issue, improper implementation of the scheme would give rise to public dissatisfaction.

27. The views of Mr TING Tsz-yuen were summarised below:

- (a) he was concerned about problems arising from the use of electric buses. Many news reports revealed that overheating batteries had caused buses to catch fire. As such, it was hoped that while promoting environmental protection, the EPD could put in place necessary measures to prevent such problems; and
- (b) in the past, the EPD had provided subsidies to participating residential estates for switching to energy efficient facilities and replacing lifts, etc. However, it seemed that the Government had seldom taken forward such policy measures recently. It was hoped that given the plentiful fiscal surplus, the Government could provide further support to residential estates in a sustained effort to achieve emission reductions.

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

- (a) on the recycling of food waste and plastic containers, given that the food waste recycling trial scheme for PRH estates had been concluded previously, he wished to know its effectiveness and how follow-up work would be taken afterwards. Food waste recycling would be able to yield good results if promoted in PRH estates;
- (b) the treatment of recovered food waste was also very important. He asked whether consideration would be given to composting food waste to produce fish feeds or fertilisers for export, in order to avoid recovered food waste being dumped into landfills eventually. Quite many people had asked whether the refuse thrown into 3-coloured bins would really be recovered for recycling. Newspapers had reported that recyclables had been dumped into landfills eventually. He asked whether the EPD could provide additional subsidies for enhancing the existing recycling system;
- (c) given the sizeable population of Sha Tin, he asked why there was only one CRC in the entire district and only a few residential estates had obtained subsidies; and
- (d) noise barriers had not yet been installed along a section of Shing Mun Tunnel Road in the vicinity of Peak One in Tai Wai. After reflecting the concern to the department concerned, there was no positive response so far. In view of the severe noise nuisance, it was hoped that the EPD could follow up accordingly.

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

- (a) regarding the issue of water quality of Shing Mun River Channel, the odour from the river was particularly intense in spring and summer. Smell could be detected as far away as the Sha Tin town centre stretching to Sha Kok Estate on the east bank. Besides, pollutants of different colours had been found floating on the river on normal days. He enquired of the DEP whether steps would be taken to find out the source of the foul odour;
- (b) on noise pollution, trains running on the MTR Ma On Shan Line until 1 am had affected residents in Shatin Park Phase 1, in particular, those living on higher levels had often been awoken by noise nuisance. Upon filing a complaint with the MTRCL, its response was that its operation had abided by the law. He asked whether this practice implied that the residents had not been affected. He was aware that it would be relatively difficult to pin his hopes on the corporate conscience of the MTRCL as revealed by its business practice of frequent fare increase. He enquired of the EPD whether it could step up its efforts to control railway noise; and
- (c) the years-long problem of people singing and dancing at the waterfront of Shing Mun River Channel had aggravated, causing nuisance to residents living on both sides of the river. Initially, the performances had been staged opposite

to Sha Tin Park and recently extended to the waterfront opposite to Sha Tin Jockey Club Swimming Pool, affecting not only the residents in Jat Min Chuen but also those living in Belair Gardens. He enquired of the EPD about its responsibilities in this regard. He had raised enquiries at a committee meeting, but the only response was that law enforcement would be undertaken by the Police. He asked the EPD whether it had no intention to take follow-up action.

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

- (a) installation of 3-coloured bins was a desirable measure. As members of the public had a high environmental awareness, these 3-coloured bins had often been fully loaded. Take Lake Silver, a residential estate in his constituency, as an example, even after the FEHD had installed an additional bin and increase the collection frequency, these bins were still fully loaded;
- (b) starting from next year, plastic straws would be banned in large-scale chain stores in Taiwan. He opined that a study on environmentally-friendly practices should also be conducted in Hong Kong, and asked whether incentives would be offered to encourage members of the public to move a step forward;
- (c) on the MSW charging, people were faced with the dilemma of a quantity-based charging system. At the initial implementation stage of the use of designated garbage bags, there might be non-compliance. He opined that estate-based charging recommended by a Member merited study;
- (d) on disposal of solid waste, he thanked the EPD for its assistance. Fly-tipping of construction waste at Lok Wo Sha Lane was serious, and there was one prosecution case several months ago. As such, he asked the EPD to step up law enforcement and consider installing closed-circuit televisions (CCTVs) lest the site would become a black spot;
- (e) on the EVs, in the early years, the Government had introduced a number of tax concessions; nevertheless, some of them were no longer in place. He asked whether a target could be set given that the use of EVs was a general trend for reducing noise and creating a greener environment;
- (f) as bicycle sharing had become a major problem, interdepartmental coordination was required;
- (g) on the issue of water quality, a number of environmental problems had been identified at the shingle beach in Wu Kai Sha in his constituency, which was outside the jurisdiction of the LCSD. It was hoped that the DEP could step up efforts in dealing with the problems of such places as the shingle beach in Wu Kai Sha and Starfish Bay because the FEHD's cleaning work alone was not enough; and
- (h) he hoped that the EPD could proactively address the annoyance caused by low

frequency noise in Double Cove. Despite that Sha Tin was populous, there was a shortage of manpower in the EPD. It was hoped that the EPD could increase manpower to address problems in the district.

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

- (a) he said that he had just passed on a press release issued by the Information Services Department to the DEP concerning an inspection conducted by the then District Officer (Sha Tin) and Mr Wong Kam-sing, Secretary for the Environment, on the video camera surveillance system in Tai Shui Hang in 2015. A photo showed the dumping of waste by some offenders at the site concerned after the system had been dismantled a year later. He did not understand why dismantling works had been carried out after the DC election, notwithstanding the success of the trial scheme. He enquired of the DEP how this type of construction waste would be disposed of;
- (b) on air quality, in the early years, the EPD had worked with the Transport Department (TD) to reduce roadside pollution with the introduction of a bus quota at busy road sections. Last year, after comparing the data collected from roadside monitoring stations and the bus frequencies, he found out that a reduction in the number of buses had not helped solve the problem. He would like to share his findings later. Air quality had been improved in 2014 because of the phasing out of pre-Euro IV diesel commercial vehicles at that time. Notwithstanding this, traffic congestion had intensified exhaust emission; and
- (c) there was a dedicated LPG filling station adjacent to a housing estate in his constituency. He would like to invite the DEP to conduct a site inspection at this filling station with him. LPG taxies had queued up when taxi drivers changed shift. Given that Yan On Estate Phase 2 was under construction, the EPD stated that this LPG filling station could not be relocated. He pointed out that the queuing up of LPG vehicles would cause air pollution, and that filling LPG vehicles at night would also disturb the rest of residents. He enquired of the DEP about the steps to be taken.

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

- (a) previously the EPD had installed CCTVs at a refuse collection point (RCP) in Tai Shui Hang on a trial basis. The results were tangible in that fly-tipping of construction waste had reduced. However, fly-tipping recurred after dismantling of the CCTVs upon conclusion of the trial scheme a year later. He asked whether the EPD could dedicate additional resources for the installation of CCTVs, especially at the RCP in Tai Shui Hang;
- (b) on the EVs, the Government had just offered tax concessions for EVs, but some owners considered that the Government's effort was inadequate and requested further reduction. He supported the "One-for-One Replacement" scheme under which there would not be an increase in the number of vehicles and at the same time, the use of EVs could be encouraged. Quite a number of EV

drivers remarked that there was an insufficient provision of EV chargers. He asked if the Government could install more EV chargers in residential estates and large-scale shopping malls, in order to encourage the use of EVs among the public and to ameliorate air pollution; and

- (c) the EPD had planned to establish more ORRCs at different places. He considered that waste reduction at source was very important. In the light of the future implementation of waste charging, the public might need to purchase garbage bags for waste disposal, which might be an incentive for the public to recycle waste. It was desirable to install food waste processors in residential estates, especially PRH estates, to encourage recycling of food waste, thereby easing the burden on ORRCs. He enquired of the EPD about the possibility of subsidising PRH estates in procuring food waste processors and increase the subsidies to private residential estates for enhancing waste reduction at source, with a view to tying in with the waste charging.

33. The views of Mr James CHAN were summarised below:

- (a) he believed that the incumbent DEP or his successors could satisfactorily handle environmental issues within the boundary of Hong Kong. It was only a matter of time. As far as environmental protection was concerned, Hong Kong's achievement in Asia was rather impressive, closely following South Korea, Japan, Singapore and Thailand;
- (b) even if Hong Kong did a good job within its boundary, it would still be encroached by waste if floating refuse in the Mainland drifted to Hong Kong. In a recent incident on 7 July 2016, a number of beaches in Hong Kong were flooded with refuse. The media and the public witnessed that the labels on the refuse were in simplified Chinese characters, which obviously showed that the refuse had drifted from the Mainland; and
- (c) some studies showed that whenever the southeasterlies set in, refuse in the Mainland would drift to Hong Kong, posing the biggest potential risk. During a previous visit to Repulse Bay Beach, he had also seen a large amount of refuse with labels in simplified Chinese characters. He hoped that the DEP could liaise with the Mainland authorities on this problem. At the previous meeting, the Vice-Chairman had suggested paying a visit to the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area. Should the opportunity arise, he would also like to convey Hong Kong's waste crisis to officials of Guangdong Province.

34. The views of Ms LAM Chung-yan were summarised below:

- (a) many members of the public had high expectations for the EPD, particularly in the aspect of noise control. In many assistance-seeking cases, the EPD officers seemed to be unable to address the problem effectively. This was particularly true in residential estates being plagued by noise nuisance arising from the operation of MTR or public bus stops. Although the EPD said that it had conducted an environmental impact assessment, residents were still living

in a noisy environment, and had no choice but to switch on air-conditioners during sleep;

- (b) take Hin Keng Estate in her constituency as an example, the Shatin to Central Link and the East Rail Line were underway in its vicinity. She had contacted the MTRCL and asked if it was possible to replace ageing air outlets and to reduce the noise generated from track grinding in the early hours. However, the years-long problems had not been dealt with squarely. There was a bus terminus in Hin Keng Estate and the noise generated from buses operating in the terminus had affected residents nearby. She enquired of the EPD whether there was no applicable law to address this situation; and
- (c) on community education, community education work conducted by community organisations alone was not enough, and it was necessary to seek further assistance from outreaching teams. She believed that the public had environmental awareness, but they had been exposed to too much information, including waste recovery, waste reduction at source, etc. She was thinking how to enhance community education for better integration into everyday life. The EPD had allocated \$200,000 to organisations every year and each district could receive a grant of less than \$10,000 on average. Given that Sha Tin was populous, she enquired of the EPD whether it could strengthen cooperation with local communities and increase the grant amount.

35. The views of the Chairman were summarised below:

- (a) as far as the CGSs were concerned, Sha Tin had been chosen as a testing ground for a period of two to three years. The role of Sha Tin CGS was ambiguous: whether it was intended for collection of recyclables only or promotion of environmental education. If this CGS was intended for effective waste collection, one single station was not enough because Sha Tin had a population of 800 000. If it was primarily intended for education and publicity, he considered that despite that its operator had already put in much effort, owing to resource constraint, it could only implement education programmes on a relatively small scale. He urged the EPD to think over the positioning of these CGSs;
- (b) in respect of waste recovery, the increasing popularity of electronic products had resulted in huge wastage of resources. Nowadays, everyone was in possession of a mobile phone, a desktop computer and a portable computer. Often people would acquire new mobile phones of the latest models even their existing ones were still in good condition. He asked if the EPD had put in place measures to enhance recovery work;
- (c) in many cases, computers and mobile phones were not recyclable because users were unable to completely purge data from the storage space. He suggested that the EPD should introduce services to assist in data purging in order to encourage recycling among the public. A fellow Member had proposed a barter arrangement. He suggested that the EPD should coordinate with suppliers through an incentive scheme to see if they could barter for the recovered accessories by offering something else;

- (d) he believed that various government departments had been providing services and carrying out duties to demonstrate their commitment to supporting and protecting residents and organisations. Currently, some residential estates were relatively old and their ageing facilities would create noise nuisance. Even if these residential estates wished to make improvement, the EPD had simply dealt with the problem from the perspective of law enforcement, and eventually the problem might have to be brought to court. Recently, a residential estate in his constituency was facing this plight. He was aware that this residential estate had intended to solve the problem but the outcome was not entirely satisfactory. He enquired of the EPD whether better tailor-made support services could be provided to these residents or organisations; and
- (e) Mr MOK Kam-kwai had talked about problems in villages before the meeting. Some villages had difficulty in dealing with sewage disposal, thereby failing to comply with the EPD's requirements. He considered that the EPD could adopt a more caring attitude by providing support to villages and exploring improvement measures with them. Residents would be very dissatisfied with the EPD if it had failed to provide any assistance at all.

36. Mr Donald TONG gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he thanked Members for their comments, and the EPD would give due consideration;
- (b) he said that the EPD had the determination to implement policies in an organised manner. This was the merit of the merged structure of the ENB and the EPD. Owing to a shortage of manpower, the EPD had to implement policies in order of priority. Inadequate publicity might be one of the causes of the problems pointed out by Members. The EPD would try its best to step up efforts;

Cross-boundary Pollution

- (c) on cross-boundary pollution, the EPD had all along held comprehensive discussion with the State authorities or nearby cities on various issues such as air and water quality. Some findings would be available very soon. For instance, the Mainland and Hong Kong had worked in a concerted effort on air pollution control, including monitoring the level of ozone. Moreover, the LegCo had just passed the ordinance on VOC, which was the fruit of discussion with the industry;

Marine Refuse

- (d) on marine refuse, some but not all marine refuse had originated from the Mainland. The EPD had liaised with the Mainland through an established mechanism, and learnt that some mainland recyclers had illegally dumped waste into the sea. The Mainland authorities had already instituted prosecution against the offenders upon investigation. Moreover, during typhoons or rainy seasons, refuse in the Mainland would drift to Hong Kong.

The Hong Kong-Guangdong Marine Environmental Management Special Panel had been set up under the framework of the Hong Kong-Guangdong Joint Working Group on Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection to enhance exchange on various marine environmental matters in the region. The Hong Kong-Guangdong Notification Mechanism on Marine Refuse had also been established to enhance the mutual responsiveness to the marine refuse issue. Subsequent to the palm stearin incident, the EPD had enhanced its responsiveness in adopting remedial measures, and would also maintain close communication with the relevant Mainland officials in the future, in order to enhance the existing mechanism to address marine emergencies;

Waste Recovery

- (e) waste recovery and recycling after waste generation was not the best practice; instead, the most desirable approach was waste reduction at source. In recent decades, the manufacturing industry in Hong Kong was not quite active, and 90 per cent of its recyclables had to be exported. Therefore, Hong Kong had to rely on offshore markets and the majority of recyclables had been transferred to the Mainland. Because of the recent drop in international oil prices, manufacturers in the Mainland recognised that the cost would be lowered if raw materials extracted from crude oil instead of recyclables such as plastic bottles were used, leading to a decline in the demand for recyclables;
- (f) identifying market outlets for recyclables was a matter of utmost concern. The EPD had maintained close liaison with the Mainland, and having regard to the relevant measures of the Mainland on the acceptance of waste paper for recycling, had established a new policy on clean recycling of three types of paper. Magazines with an impurity rate of less than 0.5 per cent could still be recovered. A higher level of impurities would increase the workload and cost of recyclers. Therefore, mutual cooperation between members of the public and recyclers was required. On the day of this meeting, the EPD had issued a tender invitation for the development of a local paper recycling mill in the EcoPark, with a view to restoring the manufacturing of recycled paper in Hong Kong. In respect of plastic recycling, plastic bottles could be exported to the Mainland in the past as long as they were compacted. Currently, the Mainland had required that plastic should be converted into pellets or yarns. In view of this, the RF would provide subsidies to recyclers for procuring pelletisers or yarn machines. In the future implementation of central collection of plastic bottles, recyclers would be required not only to provide collection services but also to adopt end-of-pipe solutions;
- (g) in regard to electronic products, a new Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Treatment and Recycling Facility had just been officially put into operation in the EcoPark in the previous week. The Facility was funded by the Government upon funding approval from the LegCo, and was operated by a contractor appointed by the EPD. It could process about 30 000 to 50 000 tonnes of waste electrical and electronic equipment generated in Hong Kong. The Government would introduce a levy on electrical and electronic equipment on 1 August 2018 to support the processing and recovery of waste electrical

and electronic equipment. In the future, purchasers of new electronic equipment could enjoy removal service whereby their old electrical and electronic equipment could be handed over to contractors for recycling;

- (h) the EPD had launched the scheme on central collection of glass containers in the New Territories and Hong Kong Island, whereby glass containers would be converted into cullets for use as recycled materials;
- (i) in respect of food waste, the EPD was of the opinion that despite that the use of food waste processors was one of the treatment methods, they had inadequate capacity to process a substantial amount of food waste. Instead, these processors could be used to demonstrate the recycling of food waste into compost. If there were not too many units in a residential estate and there was a suitable site for installing food waste processors, this method could be adopted for producing compost for greening purposes. The EPD anticipated that five to six ORRCs were needed across the territory. The first ORRC was under construction in Siu Ho Wan where food waste would be processed and used for generating power and composting. The second ORRC would be developed in the North District. Various projects had to go through the procedures of the Town Planning Board and the relevant DCs before funding approval could be sought from the LegCo. The ENB and the EPD wished to enlist Members' support in the future. However, the provision of ORRCs alone was a stopgap solution. Later on, the EPD wished to consult the public and Members for considering the feasibility of processing food waste in the Sha Tin STW;

3-coloured Bins

- (j) on 3-coloured bins, the design of existing 3-coloured bin was under review by the Steering Group on the Modification of Recycling and Refuse Collection Facilities in Public Places, and a much more user-friendly design would be announced later on. The existing ratio of 3-coloured bins to dustbins was 1:14. Hopefully this ratio would be improved to 1:6 in the future;

CGSs

- (k) on the CGSs, recycling work was as important as publicity and education. The scheme was under review, and another report would be made when the EPD had come up with new ideas. Under the current scheme, a single contractor was engaged to undertake the operation. If the operation was concurrently conducted by many other contractors in the same district, problems such as traffic issues might arise. However, the EPD would be willing to hear Members' views;

Waste Management Facilities

- (l) under the purview of the EPD, the T•PARK in Tuen Mun had featured a landscape garden and hydrotherapy pools, and hopefully it would be evolved into an education centre. This facility had attracted nearly 150 000 visitors so

far. The hydrotherapy pools had used desalinated water, whereas the electricity converted from heat energy generated through the sludge incineration process was sufficient to power 4 000 households. This was an facility in which Hong Kong should take pride in;

- (m) on the development of Integrated Waste Management Facilities (IWMFs), the IWMF Phase 1 would be set up in Shek Kwu Chau, and contract had been awarded upon funding approval obtained from the LegCo. This facility would have a daily waste treatment capacity of 3 000 tonnes to address the burden of some 10 000 tonnes of waste transferred to landfills each day;
- (n) hopefully, the aforesaid measures, including the ORRCs and food waste pre-treatment facilities for the Food Waste/Sewage Sludge Anaerobic Co-digestion Trial Scheme, could be implemented by 2024;

MSW Charging

- (o) on the MSW charging, the EPD had attached importance to effective law enforcement measures as much as Members did. The EPD would strengthen its law enforcement team and liaise closely with residential estates and PMCs, etc. In the future, there would be about 4 000 retail outlets available for members of the public to purchase designated garbage bags. Waste not properly wrapped in pre-paid designated garbage bags would be denied for collection by the FEHD or private-sector recyclers. The EPD was aware that if the PMCs were tasked to deal with illegal deposit of waste, it would mean that property owners had to bear the relevant costs, which was unfair to the law-abiding households. Therefore, upon discussion with the property management sector, subject to the consent of PMCs or OCs, the EPD would deploy officers to conduct blitz patrol and law enforcement operations in residential estates in response to contraventions reported by members of the public. Meanwhile, the EPD was actively taking forward preparation work for the waste charging, and would introduce a bill on the related proposal into the LegCo as soon as practicable;

Waste Disposal

- (p) on the issue of waste disposal, with the adoption of advanced video camera surveillance technology, the EPD was able to capture real-time information on the dumping of waste from vehicles via mobile phone, and had recently instituted a successful prosecution. Members were welcome to report illegal dumping black spots. Moreover, the EPD would install video camera surveillance systems at suitable locations in collaboration with the FEHD, so as to crack down on these black spots;

Publicity and Education

- (q) the EPD had the obligation to undertake publicity and education activities, and wished to enlist the support of the Council. Besides, it would step up outreach efforts to facilitate the implementation of a variety of publicity and education activities in various districts;

EVs

- (r) on the EVs, meanwhile the EPD had kept in view the development of electric commercial vehicles, especially buses, in the Mainland. Currently, there were about 30 single-decked electric buses for trial use in Hong Kong, and all of them were mainland models. Subject to the outcome of the trial, the EPD would consider the next step forward. However, the use of double-decked electric buses in Hong Kong would present an enormous challenge. The EPD had sent officers to a study trip in Beijing in order to have a better understanding of the local use of double-decked electric buses. Unlike countries in North America, Hong Kong was characterised by high humidity and existence of numerous slopes, thereby stretching the performance of EV batteries. This explained why some EVs did not experience problems in foreign countries, but problems would however arise in Hong Kong;

Light Pollution

- (s) on light pollution, owing to the polarised public opinions previously collected from the public consultation exercise, at that time the committee concerned had recommended to deal with it through a charter. Currently, there were approximately 4 800 signatories. A review would be conducted in 2018, which would include the conduct of public consultation and reference to overseas experience, for considering as to whether there was a need for legislation. Further information would be furnished upon conclusion of the review;

Noise Management

- (t) on noise nuisance caused by shops, the EPD had recently stepped up law enforcement against shops that generated noise nuisance during promotional activities. The EPD would take law enforcement actions against shops that caused significant nuisance to other members of the public, whether arose from the dissemination of promotional messages or the use of loudspeakers in public places, in collaboration with the Police, including provision of technical support to the Police;
- (u) on noise problem arising from MTR railway operation, if there was any contravention of the Noise Control Ordinance, the EPD would institute prosecution accordingly. Even though there was no contravention of the relevant ordinance, liaison would be maintained with the MTRCL for making improvement;
- (v) on noise from existing roads, it was hoped that Members could understand the Government had to prioritise the common aspiration for retrofitting noise barriers expressed by various districts. Meanwhile, the EPD and the Highways Department had accorded priority to a noise barrier retrofitting project for Tai Po Road - Sha Tin section. Upon obtaining funding approval from the LegCo, the works would commence as soon as possible, with a view to addressing the annoyance caused to residents. Besides, the EPD had

carried out resurfacing works at different road sections in Sha Tin with the adoption of sound-absorbing material on a trial basis; if the test results were satisfactory, this material would be adopted on a more extensive scale, so as to reduce noise from existing roads;

Greenhouse Gases

- (w) there was a downward trend in the emission of greenhouse gases as a result of the growing use of natural gas for power generation. It was believed that the peak would be over after 2020. As the relevant documents had been made available, the EPD would be more than willing to furnish such information for Members' reference after the meeting;

Water Quality of Shing Mun River Channel

- (x) on the water quality of Shing Mun River Channel, on the whole, improvement had been made. As Shing Mun River Channel was not a beach, it was not suitable for swimming; nevertheless, it was suitable for staging secondary aquatic activities. Regarding odour emissions at some sections of the river, the EPD would deploy officers to conduct patrol to find out whether it was caused by illegal disposal of industrial effluents into the channel or misconnection of foul sewers. Members might inform the EPD of any suspected emission sources, and the information would be kept in confidence; and

Village Sewerage Projects

- (y) the EPD would remain steadfast in implementing village sewerage projects in individual areas, and would continue to facilitate the implementation of sewerage proposals for individual villages put forth by Members.

37. The Chairman thanked Mr Donald TONG for responding to Members' enquiries and comments in great detail.

38. Mr Michael YUNG said that the DEP had only addressed the issue of RCPs but failed to respond to the other two enquiries put forth by him. As the LPG taxi programme was a policy introduced by the EPD, he would like to invite the DEP to pay a visit to the district.

39. Mr Donald TONG responded that as planned, a review would be conducted on the dedicated LPG stations. Definitely the use of LPG vehicles was conducive to improving roadside air quality in Hong Kong. There was no question about it. If there was information showing that the opposite was true, the EPD would also be willing to make reference. Regarding the question of whether individual filling stations would cause transportation inconvenience, due care would be exercised during the future review in collaboration with other relevant departments.

40. Noticing that a Member had pressed the "Request-to-speak" button, the Chairman considered that there was no time for the second round of speaking given that about three hours had been spent on the discussion of this agenda item. Regarding environment work or the EPD's initiatives, he believed that Members could put forward relevant enquiries for

in-depth discussion at the future meetings of the Committee chaired by Mr WONG Yue-hon. Conceivably the EPD and other relevant departments would continue to take follow-up actions. He again thanked Mr Donald TONG for giving an account of the EPD's work as well as engaging in thorough exchange of views and interaction at this STDC meeting. Regarding Members' views put forth at this meeting, the EPD could make improvement wherever possible. As for those enquiries left unanswered at this meeting, Members were welcome to submit them in writing for the EPD to take further follow-up actions.

Matters Discussed

Draft Estimates of the Sha Tin District Council for 2018-2019 (Paper No. STDC 19/2018)

41. The Chairman said that at its meeting on 20 March 2018, the Finance and General Affairs Committee (FGAC) had agreed to recommend the "Draft Estimates of the Sha Tin District Council for 2018-2019" for the Council's consideration. As the actual allocation to the Council for 2018-2019 had yet to be determined, upon confirmation from the HAD, the FGAC would be tasked to submit proposed amendments to the Draft Estimates for the Council's consideration if necessary.

42. The Council unanimously endorsed the Draft Estimates containing 11 expenditure components as set out in the paper.

Amendment to the "Sha Tin District Council Funding Application Procedures and Guidelines" (Paper No. STDC 20/2018)

43. The Chairman said that at its meeting on 20 March 2018, the FGAC had agreed to recommend the proposed amendments to the "Sha Tin District Council Funding Application Procedures and Guidelines" for the Council's consideration.

44. The Council unanimously endorsed the above paper.

Funding Applications

Extension of Opening Hours of Community Halls in Sha Tin (Paper No. STDC 21/2018)

45. The Chairman said that this funding application was about the proposed extension of opening hours of 12 community halls/centres in the district for the period between April 2018 and March 2019. The District Facilities Management Committee (DFMC) and the FGAC had at their meetings on 27 February and 20 March 2018 respectively agreed to recommend this funding application for the Council's consideration. As the applied amount of this funding application had exceeded \$1 million, approval had to be sought from the Council via the FGAC upon recommendation from the DFMC.

46. The Council unanimously endorsed the above funding application.

Proposed District Free Entertainment Programmes from April 2018 to March 2019 Jointly Organised with the Leisure and Cultural Services Department

(Paper No. STDC 22/2018)

47. The Chairman said that the Culture, Sports & Community Development Committee (CSCDC) and the FGAC had at their meetings on 1 and 20 March 2018 respectively agreed to recommend the funding application concerning provision of district free entertainment programmes for the period between April 2018 and March 2019 with the assistance of the LCSD for the Council's consideration. As the applied amount of this funding application had exceeded \$1 million, approval had to be sought from the Council via the FGAC upon recommendation from the CSCDC.

48. The Council unanimously endorsed the above funding application.

Proposed Recreation and Sports Activities from April 2018 to March 2019 Organised by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department in Sha Tin District
(Paper No. STDC 23/2018)

49. The Chairman said that the CSCDC and the FGAC had at their meetings on 1 and 20 March 2018 respectively agreed to recommend the funding application concerning the conduct of recreation and sports activities in the Sha Tin District for the period between April 2018 and March 2019 proposed by the LCSD for the Council's consideration. As the applied amount of this funding application had exceeded \$1 million, approval had to be sought from the Council via the FGAC upon recommendation from the CSCDC.

50. Mr James CHAN asked whether it was lawful to endorse a funding application where a quorum was absent.

51. The Chairman said that maybe the meeting was so lengthy, some Members had left the conference room for the time being. As such, he announced a five minutes' break.

(Five minutes' break)

52. The Chairman announced that with the presence of a quorum, the meeting was resumed.

53. The Council unanimously endorsed the above funding application.

Information Items

Reports of Committees under the STDC

District Facilities Management Committee
(Paper No. STDC 24/2018)

Culture, Sports and Community Development Committee
(Paper No. STDC 25/2018)

Education and Welfare Committee
(Paper No. STDC 26/2018)

Development and Housing Committee
(Paper No. STDC 27/2018)

Traffic and Transport Committee
(Paper No. STDC 28/2018)

Health and Environment Committee
(Paper No. STDC 29/2018)

Finance and General Affairs Committee
(Paper No. STDC 30/2018)

54. The Council noted the above seven reports.

Financial Account of the STDC (as at 20 March 2018)
(Paper No. STDC 31/2018)

55. The Council noted the above paper.

Information Papers

Sha Tin District Police Action Plan for 2018 and Crime Brief for 2017
(Paper No. STDC 32/2018)

56. Mr TING Tsz-yuen pointed out that a total of 74 and 86 crimes related to Mainland visitors had been recorded in 2016 and 2017 respectively. He envisaged that with frequent interactions between the Mainland and Hong Kong, there would be a rise in the number of related crimes. He enquired of the Police about the preventive measures to be adopted against such crimes and the types of crimes primarily involved.

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

- (a) he said that although the gambling situation in Chung On Estate and Kam Fung Court had improved, still gamblers had been spotted from time to time. He hoped that the Police could continue to combat this problem;
- (b) he said that given that there were quite a number of expatriates in the district, his colleagues often needed to translate documents into English. He appreciated the Police providing papers in English for this meeting;
- (c) he opined that a shortage of police manpower in the Sha Tin District was an existing issue but the current Budget was about future planning;
- (d) he opined that as the participation of a luxury sports car club in an event staged at Ma On Shan Police Station could enable teenagers to learn from successful people, similar events should be organised more often. He considered that this event had nothing to do with road-racing; and
- (e) he asked the Chairman whether get-well-soon messages or gifts would be sent

to the two injured police officers.

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

- (a) he said that despite that the paper had indicated a drop in overall crime rate, the number of crimes involving violence were on the rise. He wished to know the measures to be adopted by the Police to boost detection rate;
- (b) he said that in the light of the population growth in the Sha Tin District in the coming years, he asked whether additional manpower would be provided, including police officers in uniform and plain-clothes as well as traffic wardens;
- (c) he asked how the Police would prevent crimes in rural areas, other cases involving drugs or assembly of suspected triad members in housing estates, as well as curbing attempts of triad infiltration into the district;
- (d) he said that earlier on, he had reflected to Mr Sean LIN, Police Community Relations Officer (Shatin District) of the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF), about the participation of a luxury sports car club in an event staged at Ma On Shan Police Station previously. According to some internet discussion forums, this incident had given the impression that the Police had failed to make an effort in combating illegal racing for the sake of extending hospitality to members of the luxury sports car club. He hoped that the Police could take this opportunity to explain the case in a public occasion. He suggested that the Police should select a suitable venue for organising similar events in the future to avoid an adverse impact on public perception;
- (e) paragraph 191 of the 2018-19 Budget Speech stated that “the Government will increase manpower to support the implementation of various new policies and initiatives and ease the work pressure on civil servants. In 2018-19, the civil service establishment is expected to expand by 6 700 posts to 188 451. This represents a year-on-year increase of about 3.7 per cent, the highest since reunification.” In this connection, he asked how much additional manpower would be provided for the Sha Tin Police District (STPD) to tie in with this measure;
- (f) he said that Paper No. STDC 32/2018 had not been available prior to the meeting and online. All he had got was Annex II, but he was not sure if its content was complete. As such, he asked the Secretariat to explain why it had failed to provide Paper No. STDC 32/2018 before the meeting. He also enquired of the Secretariat about the procedures for issuing papers. He noticed that the Secretariat had put the STDC logo on other STDC papers, and that Chinese-English parallel text had not been provided in these papers;
- (g) he asked why the Police did not present the Action Plan and Crime Brief at the next meeting given that the Chinese version was not ready before this meeting. He considered that as electronic copy of DC papers had been made available currently to allow public participation in monitoring. He queried how the public could be allowed to participate in monitoring if the papers still had not

been available during the meeting. He opined that the papers should have been made available before the meeting;

- (h) he asked whether the Commissioner of Police (C of P) would come to the Sha Tin District for attending the STDC meeting;
- (i) he said that for the sake of convenience, some motorists heading for Sai Sha Road would simply drive in an opposite direction of the traffic at Whitehead. He asked whether there would be any development project at Lok Wo Sha Lane in the future; and
- (j) he said that a fellow Member had suggested expressing consolation to the two injured police officers; nevertheless, the STDC's courtesy fund had been abolished. He asked whether it was necessary to restore the courtesy fund if Members requested the Chairman to send get-well-soon messages or gifts to the two injured police officers.

59. Mr Tiger WONG said that a police officer had been wounded in a gunshot incident in Kwong Lam Court two weeks ago, and the suspect had ceased to receive mental health services since October 2017. He asked whether a notification mechanism had been put in place between government departments such as the Social Welfare Department (SWD) and the Police, enabling front-line officers on duty to be aware whether they were taking care of a person who had received mental health services, with a view to ensuring the safety of frontline police officers. He opined that the SWD needed not disclose the name of the mental patient; instead, it could simply provide the address of the suspect who had received treatment or had no longer received mental health services to the Police before deploying police officers to the scene for performing duties, so that they could stay vigilant.

60. Mr NG Kam-hung said that currently fly-posting was a common sight, thereby blocking road signs and bus stop signs, etc. He requested the Police to make an effort to combat this malpractice.

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

- (a) she had earlier asked the Traffic New Territories South Region to deal with the problem of illegal parking of vehicles in Shek Mun. It was initially planned that the Police would step up enforcement actions from April 2018. However, previously she learnt that under the established arrangement, police manpower would be deployed in columbaria and Po Fook Memorial Hall during the Ching Ming Festival and Chung Yeung Festival, thus the Police did not have spare capacity to deal with other matters in the district during the coming Ching Ming Festival. In anticipation of the population growth and the provision of a new columbarium in Shek Mun, she enquired about the measures to be adopted by the Police in the future;
- (b) she said that as indicated in the paper, there was a significant increase in the number of juvenile offenders among the arrested persons. She wished to know the types of crimes in which they had been involved, and enquire about the possibility of sharing information on the types of crimes or details of these cases;

- (c) she asked how the Council could assist in securing additional manpower for the STPD; and
- (d) she pointed out that the paper indicated that the STPD and the Traffic New Territories South Region were working on enforcement plans, and that during an operation on 25 February 2018, five vehicles suspected to have been illegally modified had been detained, and prosecution had been instituted against 15 speeding vehicles upon detection. She wished to know the frequency of similar operations, the lead-time for deployment of each operation and the number of operations scheduled for next year. Recently, she had received complaints about illegal road-racing at Shek Mun Interchange. In this regard, she asked the Police to pay closer attention and step up law enforcement actions.

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

- (a) he thanked Mr Sean LIN and the commander of Ma On Shan Police Station for assisting in tackling illegal road-racing in Ma On Shan previously. He said that residents' complaints had again been received about illegal road-racing and noise nuisance. As such, he urged the Police to strengthen law enforcement actions;
- (b) he said that residents' complaints had been received about the severe problem of illegal parking at Wu Kai Sha Station Public Transport Interchange. As such, he urged the Police to take necessary steps to address the situation;
- (c) in the light the rapid population growth in Sha Tin, he hoped that the number of front-line police officers could be increased to maintain law and order and ensure public safety. In anticipation of the population growth in Ma On Shan upon completion of new residential developments, he asked whether the Police would provide additional manpower for Ma On Shan;
- (d) he asked whether the Government would not allocate additional manpower to Sha Tin owing to its good law and order. To seek additional resources for Sha Tin, he considered that other than the Secretary for the Civil Service (SCS), the concern could also be expressed to the C of P; and
- (e) he appreciated the Police's determination to tackle both illegal road-racing and speeding. He said that illegal road-racing had taken place in long holidays, and it was also commonly seen before and after the Macau Grand Prix. He believed that the Police was more knowledgeable than he did. Since illegal road-racing had indeed caused nuisance to residents, he hoped that the parties concerned could address the situation in a concerted effort.

63. Mr YIP Wing said that it was not the first time in the current term that discussion papers, especially those with a relatively large number of pages, had not been provided until the day of the meeting. Not only such a practice was not environmentally friendly, it had also caused inconvenience to either the public or Members. He hoped that the Chairman

could request the departments concerned to refrain from providing documents on the day of meeting in the future.

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

- (a) he said that Sha Tin was populous, yet there was a shortage of police manpower. He suggested that the Chairman should write to the senior management of the HKPF to seek additional resources for the STPD; and
- (b) he enquired about the criteria for redeploying manpower if the manpower of the STPD was to be redeployed to the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge in the future. Besides, he enquired whether population size and area of the district instead of the crime rate alone were some of the intervening factors in resources allocation.

65. Mr Derek YUEN, Senior Executive Officer (District Council) of the STDO, responded that as the paper had been received from the Police only before the meeting, it could not be uploaded onto the website in advance. Besides, he said that the Secretariat would remind relevant departments to submit their annual reports as soon as possible.

66. Mrs Josephine MAK, District Commander (Shatin) of the HKPF, gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) she said that owing to a busy schedule lately, the paper had been provided later than before. She appreciated Members' patience and understanding. She said that an English version of the Action Plan had been provided this time because civilian staff of the Police had a heavy workload. She pointed out that there were two murder cases reported in the Sha Tin District within three weeks and her colleagues had been wounded in a gunshot incident. She said that a bilingual version would be provided to the Council after the Chinese translation was ready. She said that if she had known that the Action Plan and the Crime Brief could be put forward for discussion at the next meeting, she would have asked the Chairman to reschedule the discussion of this paper accordingly;
- (b) regarding the statistics of crimes committed by Mainland visitors in Hong Kong, she responded that among the 86 Mainland visitors arrested in 2017, 32 offenders had been prosecuted for shop theft and the remaining ones for breach of their conditions of stay. The offence mostly committed by juvenile offenders was shop theft, which was consistent with the prevailing crime trend;
- (c) she said that police officers in uniform and plain-clothes had been frequently deployed to take law enforcement actions at street gambling black spots against which complaints had been lodged, such as Chung On Estate, Yiu On Estate, Lee On Estate and Heng On Estate, and they had successfully arrested gamblers. The Police would maintain close liaison with management offices of estates, so that the latter could notify the Police's task force to conduct operations once they spotted gambling in their estates, with a view to combating street gambling activities;

- (d) she recognised that there was a shortage of police manpower in the Sha Tin District. She also envisaged that with the population growth in Sha Tin, there would be a keener demand for police services in the future, thus stretching the existing police manpower. She said that she had been seeking additional manpower from the HKPF. For instance, there should be two sergeants and seven police constables in the Miscellaneous Enquiries Sub-unit of Tin Sum Division under the existing establishment, yet her attempts for the recruitment of relevant officers in five consecutive years had been in vain. The only thing she could do was to redeploy existing officers from the STPD to satisfy the demand of the community. For instance, with the completion of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge shortly, considerable manpower would be required. The HKPF would allocate resources to satisfy the needs of new work types in a prudent manner. Apart from population growth, the HKPF would also take into account the priority allocation of resources at the community level. Nevertheless, she would make an effort to seek additional manpower and continue to make assessment on the manpower requirement;
- (e) she said that the third point under “Road Safety” of “Public Safety” in this year’s Action Plan stated that officers of the Traffic New Territories South Region would be deployed to combat illegal road-racing in collaboration with the STPD in 2018. Also, persistent efforts would be made to adopt specific measures for combating illegal road-racing activities;
- (f) she thanked Mr Tiger WONG for showing concern for the police officers who had been wounded by gunshot. She said that the police officers concerned had been discharged from hospital. In response to Mr Tiger WONG’s suggestion, she said that if the Police learnt that certain families had been involved in an exceptionally large number of domestic violence or family cases, police officers would exercise extra care. She said that on that day, two mobile patrol cars, a sergeant and three police constables had been deployed to the scene. Wherever possible, the Police would try to identify measures for enhancing the preparedness of police officers in the event of similar incidents and their deployment capabilities. Consideration might be given to deferring action pending arrival of the emergency unit. In pursuit of excellence, sustained efforts would be made to identify room for improvement;
- (g) she said that in 2017, there were 383 reported crimes per 100 000 population in the Sha Tin District, which compared favourably with the crime rate of 555 cases per 100 000 population in the New Territories South (NTS) Region and 783 cases per 100 000 population in the territory. She commented that this might had a bearing on additional manpower sought;
- (h) besides, she considered that the Police might not necessarily institute prosecution against illegal parking. Citing the example of the situation of Po Fook Memorial Hall at Yau On Street and Lakeview Garden at Yau Ting Street, on the morning of the day of this meeting, she had held a meeting with the stakeholders of Po Fook Memorial Hall, Fu Shan Public Mortuary and Fu Shan Crematorium, as well as the Water Supplies Department (WSD), the TD and the Department of Health in the police station. The OC and property

management office of Lakeview Garden had also been invited to attend the meeting. She pointed out that despite that 147 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) had been issued in 2017, the problem of traffic congestion had remained unsolved. She found out that there was a relatively spacious site adjacent to Po Fook Memorial Hall and the WSD's service reservoir currently occupied by the WSD for storage of construction materials. If this site could be vacated, probably congestion at Yau On Street would be relieved. Besides, she had discussed with Po Fook Memorial Hall and the TD that if access to Po Fook Memorial Hall was restricted to 24-seater coaches only, it was likely to relieve congestion at the road section concerned; consideration might be given to prohibiting access of private vehicles to columbaria at Lower Shing Mun Road during Ching Ming Festival and Chung Yeung Festival in tandem with improved frequency of minibus routes at the same time. Also, improvement of road signs would be conducive to alleviating the situation. As such, improvement might not necessarily be made through issuance of FPNs;

- (i) she said that all along, the Police had combated illegal road-racing activities having regard to actual circumstances. Besides, upon receipt of intelligence on illegal road-racing, the NTS Traffic Headquarters would promptly conduct joint operations with the STPD. In most cases, these activities would take place at nighttime during long holidays or on Fridays and Saturdays. Noting that racers were likely to drive against traffic at roundabouts, the Police would deploy manpower at the locations concerned, so as to avoid posing risk to other road users. The Police would also distribute promotional leaflets at barbecue sites to educate the public not to drink and drive; and
- (j) she said that on competition for manpower, additional manpower demand would arise from the takeover of new premises or provision of new services. She said that despite that the C of P had strongly supported her suggestions, other resource considerations had to be taken into account. For instance, it was necessary to maintain a high level of security at the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge irrespective of the number of its users. Therefore, unless there was sufficient manpower to meet the staffing requirements of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, it was imperative to deploy manpower from other districts; and the manpower would not be returned to various police districts until there was a sufficient provision of manpower. She said that the C of P was fully aware of the situation of police districts and enhanced working methods, and had also engaged other community stakeholders during the process.

67. Mr Sean LIN said that regarding Mr Michael YUNG's comment on a luxury sports car club's participation in a project staged at Ma On Shan Police Station, upon receipt of Mr Michael YUNG's message on that day, he had already contacted him to give a full account of the incident. He thanked Mr Michael YUNG for his support. He said that in 2018, the STPD had jointly organised the “真善美計劃” (a project on truth, benevolence and beauty) with Hong Kong Children & Youth Services and a luxury sports car club in Hong Kong for the third consecutive year, which aimed to enable youths to draw inspiration from stories of remarkably successful people through interaction and communication with volunteer vehicle owners and outreach social workers of Hong Kong Children and Youth Services and the

staging of an internship day, thereby helping them develop a positive attitude in the workplace and make their own life plans. The Police would consider taking necessary steps to address public concerns. As a matter of fact, when the project was launched for the first time three years ago, the mass media had been invited to cover the event, and positive media coverage had been generated thereafter. In the event of similar activities in the future, consideration would also be given to disseminating information through the mass media in a timely manner. He said that all along, the Police had spared no effort in combating noise nuisance arising from illegal road-racing and modified vehicles based on the principle of impartiality.

68. Mrs Gloria LEE, District Social Welfare Officer (Shatin) of the SWD, responded that as medical records were personal data, either the SWD or the Hospital Authority would exercise due care in handling personal data for protection of privacy of medical records. There was no existing mechanism to oblige the SWD to provide service users' medical history to the Police.

69. The Chairman gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he recognised that as late provision of papers would undermine meeting efficiency, in the future, he would closely follow up on how to expedite the preparation of papers and enforce deadlines with the Secretariat. He opined that in general, it was necessary for the District Officer (Sha Tin) to facilitate the work and remind relevant departments accordingly. He hoped that improvement would be seen in the handling of papers and meeting efficiency in the future;
- (b) he said that he had all along concerned about the manpower issue of the Police. He had also expressed views on provision of additional manpower and the issue of police manpower during the previous visits of the incumbent SCS and his predecessor to the Sha Tin District. Regrettably some fellow Members had not been able to attend the sessions after signing up. Otherwise, the issues brought up at this meeting could have been dealt with earlier. He said that in the light of the intake of residents into Shui Chuen O Estate, the two former commanders had all along sought additional manpower but in vain. Given that the 2018-19 Budget had earmarked considerable resources for increasing the civil service establishment, he hoped that the upcoming recruitment exercise could satisfy the prevailing demand;
- (c) in response to Mr James CHAN's view, he said that on the day of the incident, he had visited the injured officers staying at Prince of Wales Hospital with Mr WONG Ka-wing, Chairman of the District Fight Crime Committee (Sha Tin District) (STDFCC), and some fellow Members such as Ms CHAN Man-kuen. Since the officers concerned were still under treatment, a meeting could only be arranged with their families. He hoped that similar incidents would not happen again. Should such an unfortunate incident happen again, he would seek advice from Members about their wish for conveying the Council's concern and consolation. In response to Mr Michael YUNG's suggestion, he asked Mr James CHAN to consider arrangements for the courtesy fund; and
- (d) he said that as clearly indicated by the District Officer (Sha Tin) that the C of P

had scheduled a visit to the Sha Tin District, he recommended advancing his visit earlier. He also welcomed Members to raise enquiries or conduct deliberation on major district issues, so that the policing issues would be dealt with at the full council meeting. As Mr WONG Ka-wing, Chairman of the STDFCC, had more opportunities to come into contact with disciplined services directorates, Members could relay their views to him accordingly.

70. Mr WONG Ka-wing, in his capacity as the Chairman of the STDFCC, would like to respond to some Members' concerns about the police manpower. He said that the Chairpersons of various District Fight Crime Committees would meet with the C of P at least twice a year, and five to six exchange sessions had already been conducted with the C of P this year. He commented that the manpower deployment of each police district was not determined by population size but the crime rate. For instance, more police manpower was deployed in Central where many demonstrations and processions took place every week, while less manpower was required in the Sha Tin District with a relatively low crime rate. He was aware that there were many minor offences such as road traffic offences in the district. He had repeatedly requested the C of P to deploy additional traffic wardens. As a matter of fact, the HKPF had made every effort to secure the necessary resources from the Government. He hoped that the expansion of the civil service establishment proposed by the Financial Secretary could translate into additional traffic wardens in the Sha Tin District, enabling the Police to redeploy resources for crime prevention and investigation. Moreover, upon receipt of a message on the morning of the gunshot incident, he and the Chairman had promptly visited the injured officers to express their consolation. Fortunately, they had not been too seriously injured. Owing to the Police's busy schedule, if a substantial number of Members went to the hospital altogether, this might cause inconvenience to police officers, the hospital and the injured. Therefore, fellow Members had not been invited to join the visit in a high-profile manner. Should the opportunity arise, he or the Chairman would provide discloseable information for Members' reference in due course. He appreciated Members' understanding and patience.

Report of the District Management Committee
(Paper No. STDC 33/2018)

71. The Council noted the above paper.

Date of the Next Meeting

72. The next meeting was scheduled for 24 May 2018 (Thursday) at 2:30 pm.

73. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Sha Tin District Council Secretariat
STDC 13/15/50

May 2018