

Sha Tin District Council
Minutes of the 4th Meeting of
the Culture, Sports and Community Development Committee in 2020

Date : 2 July 2020 (Thursday)
Time : 2:30 pm
Venue : Sha Tin District Council Conference Room
 4/F, Sha Tin Government Offices

<u>Present</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Time of joining the meeting</u>	<u>Time of leaving the meeting</u>
Mr LI Wing-shing, Wilson (Chairman)	DC Member	2:30 pm	7:40 pm
Mr CHENG Chung-hang (Vice-Chairman)	"	2:30 pm	7:40 pm
Mr WONG Hok-lai, George	DC Chairman	5:01 pm	7:02 pm
Mr CHAN Billy Shiu-yeung	DC Member	5:06 pm	7:12 pm
Mr CHAN Nok-hang	"	2:58 pm	7:40 pm
Mr CHAN Pui-ming	"	2:30 pm	7:40 pm
Mr CHAN Wan-tung	"	5:01 pm	7:40 pm
Mr CHEUNG Hing-wa	"	2:30 pm	7:40 pm
Mr CHIU Chu-pong	"	5:06 pm	7:40 pm
Mr CHOW Hiu-laam, Felix	"	2:30 pm	5:53 pm
Mr CHUNG Lai-him, Johnny	"	2:30 pm	7:40 pm
Mr HUI Lap-san	"	2:30 pm	7:40 pm
Mr HUI Yui-yu	"	2:30 pm	7:01 pm
Mr LAI Tsz-yan	"	6:36 pm	7:40 pm
Dr LAM Kong-kwan	"	3:14 pm	7:40 pm
Mr LI Chi-wang, Raymond	"	5:01 pm	7:40 pm
Mr LI Sai-hung	"	2:30 pm	7:40 pm
Mr LIAO Pak-hong, Ricardo	"	2:30 pm	6:01 pm
Mr LO Tak-ming	"	5:06 pm	7:12 pm
Mr LO Yuet-chau	"	4:16 pm	7:40 pm
Mr LUI Kai-wing	"	2:30 pm	7:25 pm
Ms LUK Tsz-tung	"	5:48 pm	7:40 pm
Mr MAK Tsz-kin	"	2:30 pm	7:25 pm
Mr MOK Kam-kwai, BBS	"	3:14 pm	7:11 pm
Mr NG Kam-hung	"	2:30 pm	7:36 pm
Ms NG Ting-lam	"	2:51 pm	7:40 pm
Mr SHAM Tsz-kit, Jimmy	"	2:30 pm	5:46 pm
Mr SHEK William	"	5:38 pm	7:06 pm
Mr TING Tsz-yuen	"	2:30 pm	7:12 pm
Mr TSANG Kit	"	3:55 pm	7:09 pm
Mr WAI Hing-cheung	"	2:30 pm	7:25 pm
Ms WONG Man-huen	"	2:30 pm	6:50 pm
Mr YAU Man-chun	"	2:30 pm	7:40 pm
Mr YUNG Ming-chau, Michael	"	2:30 pm	7:25 pm
Ms WONG Hei-lam, Helen (Secretary)	Executive Officer (District Council)2, Sha Tin District Office		

In Attendance

Ms LEE Po-yi	Senior Integrity Education Officer, Independent Commission Against Corruption
Ms YEW Suet-yi, Mary	Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Sha Tin)3, Social Welfare Department
Ms LEE Mei-yee	Senior Librarian (Sha Tin), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms CHAN Siu-kin, Ester	Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Sha Tin, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms TAM Yuen-fun, Betty	Senior Manager (New Territories East) Promotion, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr LAU Ching-kong, Vincent	Senior School Development Officer (Shatin)1, Education Bureau
Ms CHENG Siu-ling, Katy	Chief Liaison Officer, Sha Tin District Office
Ms LEUNG Wai-shan, Cecilia	Senior Liaison Officer (West), Sha Tin District Office
Mr YUEN Chun-kit, Derek	Senior Executive Officer (District Council), Sha Tin District Office

In Attendance by Invitation

Ms WONG Sau-kuen, Joe	District Leisure Manager (Sha Tin), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms SAM Fung-mei, Esther	Manager (NTE) Marketing & District Activities, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr LI Ho-tin, Simon	Deputy District Leisure Manager (Sha Tin)2, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms CHAN Wing-yee, Winnie	Liaison Officer i/c (YP), Sha Tin District Office
Ms YIP Man-wai, Bowie	Executive Assistant (District Council)4, Sha Tin District Office
Ms LEE Kit-ling	Liaison Officer i/c (W)3, Sha Tin District Office
Ms NG Suk-min	Senior Liaison Officer (E), Sha Tin District Office
Miss LEUNG Ho-pan, Pannie	Liaison Officer i/c (E)2, Sha Tin District Office
Mr. ROICHANDANI Peter	Liaison Officer (E)2a, Sha Tin District Office
Ms LO Yat-ling, Elaine	Liaison Officer i/c (W)1, Sha Tin District Office
Mr WAI Kwok-hung, SBS, JP	Chairman, Sha Tin Sports Association Limited
Mr Derek CHAN	General Secretary, Sha Tin Sports Association
Ms June CHUNG	Executive Secretary, Sha Tin Sports Association

Absent

Mr CHING Cheung-ying, MH	DC Chairman	(Application for leave of absence received)
Ms TSANG So-lai	DC Member	(”)
Mr YIP Wing	”	(”)
Mr WONG Ho-fung	”	(No application for leave of absence received)

Action

The Chairman welcomed members and representatives of government departments to the meeting. He pointed out that Sha Tin District Council Conference Room would be cleaned at 6:30 pm today, and the air conditioning was reserved until 7 pm.

Applications for Leave of Absence

2. The Chairman said that applications for leave of absence in writing had been received from the following members:

Mr Billy CHAN	Official commitment
Mr CHING Cheung-ying	"
Mr CHIU Chu-pong	"
Mr LO Tak-ming	"
Ms LUK Tsz-tung	"
Mr SHEK William	"
Ms TSANG So-lai	Sickness
Mr YIP Wing	"

(Note: Mr Billy CHAN, Mr CHIU Chu-pong and Mr LO Tak-ming joined the meeting at 5:06 pm; Mr SHEK William joined the meeting at 5:38 pm; Ms LUK Tsz-tung joined the meeting at 5:48 pm.)

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

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 29 April 2020

(CSCDC Minutes 3/2020)

4. The Chairman said that the Secretariat had not received proposed amendments to the minutes prior to the meeting.

5. Members unanimously endorsed the above minutes of the meeting.

Matters Arising

Responses of Government Departments to Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

(Paper No. CSCD 36/2020)

6. The Chairman asked members to refer to the paper for the responses from the Development Bureau (DEVB), Government Property Agency (GPA), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), Home Affairs Bureau (HAB), Home Affairs Department (HAD) and Sha Tin District Office (STDO) to the matters arising from the previous meeting.

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

- (a) he expressed that he wanted to learn about HAB's cut of the funding for the Sha Tin District Council (STDC) and "dedicated allocation", but the HAB had not accounted in the paper on whether the Secretary for Home Affairs would attend the meeting of the STDC to explain the funding allocation arrangement. He asked why the Bureau was not responding;
- (b) he expressed that the Department responded by saying that the reduction was made due to the need to deal with emergencies. However, when the relevant allocation was vetted by the Legislative Council (LegCo), it was allocated to the District Councils

(DCs) and could not be reduced at will. He asked if the Finance Committee of the LegCo was aware of the reduction in DC funding;

- (c) he said that the specific purpose of the “dedicated allocation” was set by the Department and asked whether the LegCo knew that the funds could not be used for other purposes. He thought that the arrangement of “dedicated allocation” lacked flexibility;
- (d) he said that on the one hand, the Secretary made remarks that were disrespectful to DCs; on the other hand, he avoided meeting DC Members, but claimed to the public that he was arranging to meet DC Members;
- (e) he asked what rank Mr Howard YAM, who wrote the letter on behalf of the HAD, belonged to. He thought that the letter should be answered by the Secretary. He also asked whether it was necessary to call the secretary of the Secretary directly to invite the Secretary to attend the meeting of the STDC; and
- (f) he said that the Secretary should not make a rash judgment, commenting that DCs were playgrounds and that they could have fun as long as they abided by the rules. He asked the Secretary whether he knew the rules of the DCs. He said that DC Members were not playing in the DCs. He asked whether it was the staff of the HAD who had misled the Secretary to think that way or whether the Secretary was having fun in the Central Government Offices.

8. The Chairman said that the Culture, Sports & Community Development Committee (CSCDC) had passed a provisional motion at its last meeting to invite the Secretary to attend the meeting of the STDC. He said that the Secretariat had clearly conveyed the message to the HAB, HAD and STDO. He agreed that the DC was a serious occasion, but not a playground.

9. Ms Cecilia LEUNG, Senior Liaison Officer (West) of the STDO said that the HAD had provided a written reply to the Chairman of the STDC on the provisional motion passed by the STDC. She said that “dedicated allocations” had always been used to fund district activities promoting arts and culture in the past. In the past, the Sha Tin Arts and Culture Promotion Committee (STACC) was responsible for applying for funds to hold district activities.

10. Mr CHEUNG Hing-wa said that the former District Officer (Sha Tin) had expressed to DC Members of the new term in a briefing about her hope to strengthen cooperation with each other, but she procrastinated in reimbursing operating expenses. He pointed out that the paper did not explain whether the Secretary would attend the meeting of the STDC to explain the matters about funding. He could not feel that the Department wanted to cooperate with DC Members. He requested the STDO to invite and ask the Secretary again whether he would attend the meeting of the STDC to explain the matters about funding.

11. Mr CHAN Pui-ming said that the HAD, on the one hand, pointed out that funding for the STDC had to be reduced to cope with emergencies, on the other hand, they increased the funding for art and culture activities while many cultural activities could not be held due to the pandemic. The STDC could not purchase sufficient anti-epidemic supplies due to the reduction of its funding. He asked if the STDO actually cared about the urgent needs of the public.

12. Ms Katy CHENG, Chief Liaison Officer of the STDO said that regarding the provisional motion endorsed by the STDO and the CSCDC to invite the Secretary to explain the funding allocation to the STDC, the letter from the HAD to the Chairman of the STDC indicated that the motions had been conveyed to the Secretary, and Mr Howard YAM was the Assistant Director of the HAD authorised by the Secretary to respond to the invitations. She said the HAD had explained in the letter why funding was reduced and responded to the issue on dedicated allocation. She said that the Office would once again reflect to the Bureau that members would like to invite the Secretary to attend the meeting of the STDC.

13. Mr Derek YUEN, Senior Executive Officer (District Council) of the STDO said that the Secretariat had not deliberately delayed the progress of DC Members' applications for reimbursement of operating expenses and asked DC Members to rest assured. As to why some cases took a long time, he said that the situation of each case was different, and the Secretariat was willing to follow up with DC Members to speed up the reimbursement.

14. The Chairman noted that some DC Members had pointed out that the progress of application for reimbursement of operating expenses was slow, including his own application. He understood that this could be because of the pandemic or the impact of the change of office. However, the application of some DC Members had been delayed for not just one to two months, but four to five months. He sympathised with the shortage of manpower in the Secretariat, but it took too long indeed to process the reimbursement. He said that DC Members had to pay their rents on time and pay their assistants' salaries. Some of the applications involved operating expenses as well as expenses for setting up offices of up to \$200,000 to \$300,000, which was a heavy burden for DC Members.

15. Mr Derek YUEN said that, as far as he understood, the need for countersign or supplementary statements was often involved in the reimbursement of operating expenses. For example, photos of the receipts of equipment purchased for setting up the office and other information had to be supplemented. In addition, if any amount from the previous year was involved, it would depend on when the receipts were delivered to the Secretariat, which would also take time for the Secretariat to process. He said that the Secretariat had been handling the reimbursement of operating expenses in a cooperative manner and hoped to assist DC Members in solving problems.

16. The Chairman said that he understood that the Secretariat had special work arrangements under the pandemic and could not take the documents home for processing, while this term of the STDC had also held frequent meetings. However, he said that the documents of some cases had been submitted from November to December last year but had not yet been processed so far. He believed that it was because some staff of the Secretariat were too busy and hoped that the Secretariat could increase its manpower and resources for processing of the applications.

17. The views of Mr Felix CHOW were summarised below:

- (a) he enquired about the Fo Tan Complex. He expressed his gratitude to the GPA for meeting with several DC Members of Fo Tan District after the last meeting. He said that there was still a lack of corresponding sports and transportation facilities in the vicinity of Chun Yeung Estate in Fo Tan after its occupation. He believed that the Government's community planning was lagging behind, and that it might take more than a decade to improve community facilities in the area after occupation of the housing estate. He hoped that the Government would consider carefully nearby facilities during planning, such as the retention or abolishment of the cooked food market, and account to the STDC; and

- (b) he said that cultural and sports activities in Hong Kong had been suspended for a long time. Many confirmed cases had returned to Hong Kong one after another and no one knew when there would be an invisible transmission chain. He said that the overall funding to the STDC had been cut down for emergency use, but cultural and recreational activities continued without any corresponding adjustment in the funding amount. He asked whether the LegCo had allowed adjusting the allocation to DCs when it vetted such allocation, and whether there was no room for adjustment when any dedicated allocation was deliberated by the STDC. He said that DCs hoped to communicate with the HAB and that the Secretary would visit all 18 districts to explain the funding matters. He wanted to know about the handling of DC funding and the relationship between the Government and DCs.

18. Mr WAI Hing-cheung said that Mr Michael YUNG had questioned whether Assistant District Officers had passed the message of the provisional motion onto the new Secretary. Upon the response of the Chief Liaison Officer, he believed that the STDO had indeed conveyed the message but asked whether the Secretary had a clear understanding of the contents of the provisional motion. He said that the provisional motion endorsed at the last meeting had clearly stated that the reason for suspension of processing of the funding application of the STACC was that the new Secretary had not yet attended the meeting of the STDC and the STDO had not explained the epidemic prevention arrangements for the activities, and the suspension would be until the Secretary personally attended the meeting of the STDC to provide an explanation. He asked why Mr Howard YAM's reply did not specify whether the Secretary would attend the meeting of the STDC. He said that if the Secretary did not respond whether he would attend the meeting, they would not be able to process the funding application made of the STACC.

19. Ms Katy CHENG said that the amount of funding for "dedicated allocation" was set by the HAD at the beginning of the year. As for whether there would be room to reduce the allocation, the STDO would convey Members' opinions to the HAD. As for the reduction of the allocation to the STDC, the reduction was made because the Government had to reserve contingency funds due to the pandemic. She said that the STDO had conveyed the contents of the provisional motion endorsed at the last meeting as they were to the HAB, and the relevant reply was included in the paper.

20. The Chairman said that regarding the matter of Fo Tan Cooked Food Market, as there were no representatives from relevant government departments attending the meeting, he hoped that members' views could be clearly recorded for information of the relevant departments.

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

- (a) he asked about the location arrangement for the processing of reimbursement of operating expenses between DC Members and staff of the Secretariat. He said that applications could be processed with the staff of the Secretariat in the DC Members' lounge in the past and any problem could be easily handled, but documents could only be processed in the narrow space at the reception desk this year, so he requested the Secretariat to provide appropriate space for DC Members to process applications. He said that he learned that some staff of the Secretariat had taken long leaves, but he thought that it should not be an excuse because DC Members had to pay their staff on time. He believed that the Secretariat should solve the problem of shortage of staff;

- (b) he said that the residents of Fo Tan had been moving in gradually, but the Department's response regarding the Fo Tan Complex was only a few hundred words. He asked whether they had to wait for a decade for the completion of the Fo Tan Complex after the occupation of Chun Yeung Estate. The situation was similar to that of Shui Chuen O Estate in which the construction of a primary school was studied only after many years of occupation. He believed that the Fo Tan Complex should be built as soon as possible;
- (c) he said it was mentioned in the paper that relevant departments would consult the STDC on the construction of the Fo Tan Complex in the second half of 2020. However, it was already 2 July 2020 today and there was very little time left in the session of this year. While the relevant departments had not sent representatives to attend the meeting today, the progress was slow; and
- (d) he said that the funding applications of local organisations were discussed at the last meeting, while the STDO had also submitted the points which were inappropriate to the meeting for discussion. Therefore, he asked why Members' request for the Secretary to attend the meeting was not addressed. He said that it was already July and asked whether the 10 activities applied for by the STACC could still be held. He believed that the amount of the funding application of those activities should be reduced.

22. The views of Mr Ricardo LIAO were summarised below:

- (a) he said that he had received a remittance advice from the Treasury on 30 June for operating expenses and office setup expenses of a total of about \$180,000, including the salaries for April and May of his assistants. He said that he had submitted his application in April but was told that the subject officer was unable to process the application temporarily because he was busy processing the funding for the STDC. He said that he had separated the application for regular expenses and that for the expenses spent on publicity materials, but it still took as long as two months for them to be processed. He said that the former District Officer (Sha Tin) had told new members that applications for operating expenses would be processed as soon as possible and asked if there was a performance pledge; and
- (b) he said that for the Fo Tan Complex project, the planning of the area should not be reviewed until residents settled in. The relevant supporting facilities should be properly planned and constructed before the construction of residential projects. He said that several residential developments in Fo Tan were about to be occupied, but the Fo Tan Complex was still under planning. He hoped that the project would be completed as soon as possible to benefit the residents.

23. Mr MAK Tsz-kin asked about the Fo Tan Complex. He commented that the Government often planned nearby facilities only after residents had settled in without fully considering whether the community supporting facilities in the area could entertain the population in the area. He said that residential developments such as Chun Yeung Estate, Choi Wo Court and Yuk Wo Court would be gradually occupied, and the population of Fo Tan would increase by 20 000 to 30 000. He asked the Government what the policy and mode of planning were and thought that the Government had not properly planned the cultural, recreational and sports facilities in the area. He said that the social welfare facilities, institutions, homes and kindergartens in Chun Yeung Estate were affected by the

pandemic and asked the Social Welfare Department which organisations could provide services to residents immediately after the occupation. In addition, he asked the Education Bureau (EDB) about the tender status of kindergartens in Chun Yeung Estate and how many school places would be provided.

24. The Chairman said that no government department would attend the meeting for matters arising. However, as members were concerned about the project of Fo Tan Complex, he asked the Secretariat to convey members' views to the relevant departments for them to submit a further reply at the next meeting.

25. Mr Derek YUEN said that he would relay members' opinion for improvement of the narrow space at the reception desk for handling reimbursement of operating expenses. In addition, regarding Mr Ricardo LIAO's opinions, he would contact the person in charge to learn of what had to be improved.

26. Mr Vincent LAU, Senior School Development Officer (Sha Tin)¹ of the EDB said that the school premises of Chun Yeung Estate Kindergarten had been initially completed and the school allocation process had commenced in accordance with the established procedures to verify and process relevant applications. The application results would be officially released when available. He said he would provide information after the meeting.

(Post-meeting supplementary information: The School Allocation Committee was reviewing the applications in detail and considering various factors. It would also meet with the applying school sponsoring bodies.)

27. The Chairman invited the EDB to provide information for members' information at the next meeting

28. Ms WONG Man-huen enquired about the reply regarding funding allocation. She wanted to know what objective adjustment according to the mechanism meant and the use of the contingency funds. She also asked whether there were precedents for such contingency funds and how the allocation would be handled. She said that all operating expenses she claimed for reimbursement were rents and salaries of her assistants. She did not understand why the process took so long. She believed that the Government had double standards and paid no regard to the needs of DC Members and the public.

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

- (a) according to his own experience, it took him about 1 to 3 weeks to claim reimbursement of operating expenses in the previous two terms of the STDC. However, the approval of the application for operating expenses in this term was very strict, which hindered the progress of processing of the application. He hoped the STDO could review the current practice and speed up the progress of reimbursement of daily expenses such as rents and salaries of assistants of DC Members; and
- (b) he enquired about the progress of the Tai Wai Complex. He said that the Complex had been planned for construction in 2018, but so far there had been no progress or the progress was slow. He said a library should be set up and government dental care services should be provided in the Complex. He was concerned about the progress of development of the Tai Wai Complex and the Fo Tan Complex. He said that land had

been reserved for construction and asked if there were any difficulties that delayed the progress. He believed that the Government should speed up the development of both projects.

30. Mr CHENG Chung-hang said that he understood that the documents for the reimbursement of operating expenses needed to be made public. However, he thought that the efficiency of vetting was too low and there were problems in the administration of the STDO. He asked whether there was a performance pledge on how many working days it would take to complete the vetting and deposit the money into the applicant's account. He asked what the internal procedures for processing reimbursement of operating expenses were and how long DC Members could expect each procedure to take. He explained that the amount of advance was limited to only two months' operating expenses, which was not enough to meet the backlog of applications for reimbursement of operating expenses. In addition, he believed that if there was any problem with the documents, the Office should notify DC Members to fix the problem as soon as possible. He said he did not want to waste time discussing these issues repeatedly at every meeting.

31. Mr NG Kam-hung said some DC Members were processing the invoices for reimbursement at the reception right now, where the space was insufficient.

32. The Chairman expressed his hope that the STDO would inform the District Officer or Assistant District Officers of the situation of application for reimbursement of operating expenses and consider whether to make a performance pledge. As the backlog of reimbursement of operating expenses for re-elected DC Members could be as high as hundreds of thousands of dollars, with a backlog of more than 6 to 10 months. He said he understood the special situation caused by the pandemic but thought that it was not acceptable to take more than a few months to process an application. In addition, he said that the Tai Wai Complex would be handled by the Development and Housing Committee (DHC).

33. Mr Derek YUEN said that the documents of rent and staff salary could be processed as soon as possible, while the documents with problems could be followed up separately to speed up the processing of applications. As for the internal procedures for processing of applications, he said that he would further explore the application processing time.

34. The views of Mr LUI Kai-wing were summarised below:

- (a) he said that there was a complete lack of community planning in Fo Tan, the problem of illegal parking was serious in the district, and there was a lack of pedestrian crossing facilities in the industrial area;
- (b) he said that residents in Fo Tan relied on the MTR for transport. If the MTR broke down, traffic would be congested, while there were no bus routes that ran directly between the area and Kowloon and Hong Kong Island;
- (c) he said that there was a lack of decent markets in Fo Tan District. Residents had to go to markets in Wo Che and even Tai Po for grocery shopping. He hoped that the STDO would help to communicate with departments to construct the Fo Tan Complex as soon as possible, so that residents could enjoy amenities and community facilities, such as library, swimming pool, community centre and fitness centre, etc.; and

- (d) he asked what would happen to the old school building after the relocation of P.L.K. Siu Hon Sum Primary School in Sui Wo Court and whether there would be any new school sponsoring bodies moving into it. He said that the population of Fo Tan District was increasing. As residential developments in Fo Tan District completed one after another, he asked whether there were enough school places in the district.

35. The views of Mr HUI Yui-yu were summarised below:

- (a) he asked about the approval criteria for reimbursement of operating expenses. He said that he bought insurance at the beginning of this term, including labour insurance for 1 full-time assistant and 4 part-time assistants. However, he had only 1 full-time assistant and 1 part-time assistant at that time. The Secretariat told him that reimbursement could only be approved on a pro rata basis. He also asked whether it was necessary to refund the amount of the corresponding part if a staff member subsequently left. He said that the insurance company might not be able to allow additional staff, while there would also be a window after hiring staff. If the staff left, the insurance company would not return the money. He thought that the STDO's mechanism was unrealistic. He asked if the STDO had ever learned about whether insurance companies on the market had the practice of accepting supplementary policies in the middle of a term. He said that the STDO would not check whether the paper purchased by DC Members was used up or whether the mobile phone data purchased by DC Members were used up. He believed that it should be the same for the purchase of insurance for staff; and
- (b) he said he considered it strange that the expenses could not be reimbursed if a DC member purchased items as gifts to members of the public and put stickers with the information of the DC Member on them, while, on the contrary, the expenses could be reimbursed if the information of the DC Member was printed on the items. He suggested that DC Members and the Secretariat could be separated into two sides and held a debate over whether the approach would be feasible when the Secretariat had to formulate approval criteria in the future. He said that if there was no obvious reason or strict logic, the expenses should be reimbursed.

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

- (a) he said that he was disappointed that the Secretary did not respond to Members' invitation to the STDC meeting. He believed that it was the Secretary's duty to communicate with DC Members and hoped that the Chairman would ask the Bureau to respond at the next meeting. He believed that the minimisation by the Bureau meant that it did not want the STDC to operate effectively. He asked the STDO to truthfully reflect Members' opinions to the Bureau; and
- (b) he said that the air conditioner in his ward office was damaged and a new air conditioner was purchased. And since the Government had implemented the WEEE recycling scheme, contractors would recover old electrical appliances to comply with the law. He said that he was required to return the old air conditioner to the Secretariat last year when he submitted the receipt for the purchase of the new air conditioner to the Secretariat for reimbursement of the operating expenses. He was asked later to buy back the old air conditioner at a discounted price. He thought that the STDO had violated the regulation concerning WEEE, which was unreasonable. He believed that

it would be tenable to complain to the Office of the Ombudsman about this case. He requested the STDO to review the details of the application for reimbursement of operating expenses.

37. The Chairman said that traffic matters related to Fo Tan District could be dealt with by the Traffic and Transport Committee, whilst representatives of the EDB would be invited to respond to education matters in Fo Tan District. He expressed the hope that the Government would face up to members' views on the application for reimbursement of operating expenses. He said that members endorsed an provisional motion at the last meeting, requesting the Secretary to discuss the allocation of DC funding at the meeting of the STDC before processing funding applications. He said that government departments would like to discuss the funding application submitted by the STACC again at this meeting. He respected the decisions of government departments and let them submit the funding application. However, he reminded members that he respected their opinions on the matter in the provisional motion endorsed last time. He said that he would follow up the provisional motion and send a letter to the Secretary inviting him to attend the meeting of the STDC.

38. Mr Vincent LAU said that after the relocation of P.L.K. Siu Hon Sum Primary School, students would attend classes in the new school building. The Bureau would closely monitor the supply of school places in the district and further increase places if necessary. As for the vacant school building, it would be open for application for use by institutions according to established procedures, including for temporary school running purposes.

39. Mr Derek YUEN said that he would consult the HAD on the issue of labour insurance. If the Secretariat was not sure whether a certain item could be reimbursed, he would consult the HAD first and then reply to Members.

40. Mr HUI Yui-yu said that if the issue of reimbursement could not be resolved, it might be necessary to seek help from the Judiciary. He said that since the Secretariat did not know whether there were insurance companies in the market that allowed the subsequent addition of insurance policies, it was unfair to make this rule for DC Members to abide by. The Secretariat should tell DC Members which insurance companies met their requirements.

41. Mr Derek YUEN said that reimbursements would be dealt with in accordance with the rules of the HAD.

42. The Chairman understood that civil servants had to follow the rules, but he hoped that the Department would review the practice and he believed that there were loopholes in the rules that could be improved, otherwise it would cause troubles and losses to DC Members.

43. Mr CHAN Pui-ming asked the STDO about the allocation of funds to the STDC for the employment of contract staff. He said that the expenditure of the STDC for the employment of contract staff amounted to \$2.39 million in 2012 and increased to \$4.83 million in 2020. He said that in the past few years, the population of Sha Tin District and the workload of the STDC had been increasing. The number of seats of the STDC and the number of staff needed to be employed had also been increasing. The maximum amount of funding allocated to the STDC for the employment of contract staff was \$4.87 million, and the current expenditure would soon reach the ceiling. He believed that if the funding allocated to STDC would be further reduced in the future, there would be a lack of protection for the contract staff and result in brain drain. He asked why there was "dedicated allocation" for cultural and art activities, but not for the employment of contract staff. He said that the Secretary should be invited to the meeting of the STDC to discuss the allocation of

funds for the coming year and understand how an objective mechanism could be formulated, how the amount of emergency funds provided for the STDC would be reduced and how the remaining funds would be dealt with.

44. Mr CHENG Chung-hang pointed out that the STDO attached no importance to DC Members' applications for operating expenses but urged Members to hold a meeting to vet funding applications of the STDC. He asked at what time and on what occasion the STDO would answer his question on the reimbursement of operating expenses.

45. The Chairman said that he would write to the Secretary and request an explanation of the funding to the STDC. Matters related to the reimbursement of operating expenses could be referred to the Finance and General Affairs Committee (FGAC) for discussion and follow-up. He asked the Secretariat to respond to Mr YAU Man-chun's question.

46. Mr Derek YUEN said that air conditioners were capital goods. If they were damaged or could not be repaired, they should be returned to the Secretariat for handling or disposal according to the guidelines of the HAD for the time being. He reiterated that the Secretariat had to follow the guidelines of the HAD in its work.

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

- (a) he said that he understood that the Secretariat needed to follow the guidelines. However, it was generally understood that the legislation of WEEE had come into effect. Old electrical appliances had to be collected by electrical appliance suppliers, and the cost of new air conditioners also covered the recovery cost. He believed that it would be a waste of public money not to let electrical appliance suppliers take away the electrical appliances. He believed that the guidelines of the HAD were outdated, and it was unfair to require DC Members to compensate for discarded electrical appliances. He requested the HAD to revise the relevant guidelines; and
- (b) he said that his office in Shui Chuen O should be transferred to Mr LO Tak-ming as his ward office at the request of the Housing Department and he had to move to a new office. He said that there was an air conditioner in the old office, which was temporarily stored in the office. He requested to buy back the air conditioner, but it was not processed after several months. He asked whether the air conditioner could be transferred to Mr LO Tak-ming by way of repurchasing. He requested the Secretariat to speed up the processing.

48. Mr CHAN Nok-hang asked whether there was a performance pledge for the reimbursement of operating expenses on how long it would take to process an application.

49. The views of Mr HUI Lap-san were summarised below:

- (a) he expressed the hope that the Fo Tan Complex would be completed as soon as possible. Due to serious illegal parking in Fo Tan District and that restaurants would not open in the evening, he was worried about the lack of amenities in the vicinity after residents moved in. He hoped that the ancillary facilities in Fo Tan District would be completed as soon as possible; and

- (b) he said that he shared a joint office with Mr Johnny CHUNG and they bought insurance for the office separately. When he applied for reimbursement of expenses, he was told by the STDO that he could not apply for office insurance separately with the same address. He asked whose insurance should be claimed if a member of the public was injured in their shared office, or whether both parties would be liable. He asked whether the STDO could review the matter again so that both parties could take out insurance for the office in the employer's responsibility.

50. The views of Mr Johnny CHUNG were summarised below:

- (a) he commented that government departments should consult new DC Members on key development projects in the district instead of answering members' questions in a "toothpaste squeezing" manner. The Government should also consider widely introducing these projects to the public; and
- (b) he revealed that at least 5 members of the STACC had lost in the DC election, believing that they lacked public support and art and cultural background, and that their appointment was contrary to public opinion. He said that the STDC was responsible for vetting funding for these activities, but it was just like a rubber stamp without the authority to monitor how the activities were carried out.

51. Mr LI Sai-hung said that his TV set had been damaged for two years and should be returned to the Secretariat. However, the Secretariat told him that it could not take it back due to insufficient storage space and he asked if the Secretariat could speed up the processing.

52. Mr TSANG Kit said that the processing of his application for reimbursement of operating expenses was slow. So far, only two batches of payment had been received. The receipts of rent and staff salary in January had not yet been processed. He said that he had met with the District Officer earlier. The STDO said that there was a shortage of staff due to the ill health of some staff, but the progress was in fact too slow. He asked Mr MOK Kam-kwai and Dr LAM Kong-kwan about the progress of reimbursement of operating expenses. If their progress was smooth, he hoped that the STDO could refer to their standard in making reimbursements.

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

- (a) he asked whether there were no departmental representatives from the GPA and the DEVB present today. He said that at the meeting of the DHC, papers submitted by the Town Planning Board and the Housing Department on large-scale housing planning would contain very detailed plans. He said that the plan for the Fo Tan Complex had not yet been submitted to the meeting. He believed that the Bureau did not attach importance to the project. He hoped that the departments concerned would submit papers to Members early before the papers were submitted and discussed at the meeting. They should not submit papers only a few hours before the meeting; and
- (b) he asked why DC Members could not apply for reimbursement of the expenses spent on labels, believing that the Secretariat had not kept pace with the times. In his opinion, the STDO could have violated the law in the case mentioned by Mr YAU Man-chun.

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

- (a) he was surprised at the reply given by the Assistant Director of Home Affairs on behalf of the Secretary, asking whether the Secretary had no time to deal with the funding allocation of the district. The Department also had not responded to the time and occasion when the Secretary would meet with DC Members, asking whether their requests could not reach the Secretary. He said that he tried calling the Secretary according to the information in the Government Telephone Directory, but his call had not been answered so far. He thought that the Secretary might not be familiar with the operation of DCs, so he would like to talk to the Secretary; and
- (b) he said that the problem of reimbursement of operating expenses originated from the former District Officer. He could recall that Vice-Chairman George WONG had written to request the STDO to handle the work pragmatically, but he did not get a reply. He thought that the former District Officer worked with the mentality of “rule by doing nothing”. He said that a call was being made to the Under Secretary for Home Affairs but no one answered. He said he was disappointed by the response from the Bureau and the Department, and that the former District Officer had not done her duty in dealing with the matter.

55. The Chairman said that he would write in his capacity as the Chairman of CSCDC to the Secretary to invite him to attend the meeting. As matters related to the Fo Tan Complex were matters arising, departmental representatives would not normally attend the meeting. However, the reply of the DEVB in the paper indicated that the STDC would be consulted in the second half of 2020, so Members could fully express their views by then. He also hoped that the departments related to the Fo Tan Complex would give a further reply. He said that the appointment system of the STACC had been fully discussed at the last meeting and invited members to refer to the minutes of the last meeting. He invited the Secretariat to give a brief reply on the reimbursement of operating expenses and suggested that it could be further discussed at the FGAC.

56. Mr Derek YUEN said that he would relay the views on the processing of application for reimbursement of operating expenses and reply to the members concerned later. He had no information in hand on Members’ questions on air conditioners, storage and labour insurance. He would follow up with the DC Members concerned later.

57. Mr YAU Man-chun asked whether he had to return the air conditioner to the Government or recycle it according to the law. He hoped that the Secretariat would consult the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) and the HAD. He said that he had informed the Secretary of the FGAC and hoped to discuss the reimbursement of DC Members’ operating expenses at the next meeting.

58. Mr CHAN Pui-ming asked about the salary arrangement for contract staff of the DC mentioned above. He said that the relevant expenditure had reached the maximum. If the funding of the STDC was not increased, the contract staff would not be able to get a pay rise.

59. The Chairman hoped that the Secretariat would study the relevant cases of application for reimbursement of operating expenses after the meeting and reply to the Members concerned.

60. Ms Katy CHENG said that DC funding was reviewed and arranged by the HAD, and the STDO could reflect Members’ opinions to the HAD.

61. Mr NG Kam-hung asked if the DEVB and the GPA would attend the next meeting of the CSCDC.

62. The Chairman said that the reply of the DEVB in the paper had indicated that the STDC would be consulted in the second half of the year. In the past, departmental representatives would normally not be invited to attend the discussion of matters arising. Therefore, the relevant departments would not necessarily attend the next meeting, but the departments would be requested to reply further. When they consulted the STDC, they would be requested to provide papers for members' perusal as early as possible.

63. Members noted the paper.

Funding Applications

Funding Application of the Planning Committee on Festive Lighting in Sha Tin (Paper No. CSCD 38/2020)

64. The Chairman invited members to refer to the 4 funding applications in the paper and to declare their interests in connection with the Planning Committee on Festive Lighting in Sha Tin (Planning Committee) and the co-organiser Jockey Club Jat Min Youth S.P.O.T., the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups. He said that no members present declared interests.

65. Ms LEE Kit-ling, Liaison Officer i/c (W)3 of the STDO briefly introduced the paper.

66. Mr TING Tsz-yuen commented that the festive lighting was the same every year. Members' participation in these activities was very low after the funding was approved if they were not members of the Planning Committee. He suggested that the Planning Committee could provide more information to the CSCDC and account for the progress of the activities. He hoped that the Secretary would note members' opinions and increase participation in the STDC in addition to those appointed by the STDO.

67. The views of Mr LO Yuet-chau were summarised below:

- (a) he commented that the venues of the lighting activities were similar to that of the previous year. In the briefing, members made suggestions on the venues, such as the area along Tai Chung Kiu Road, so that residents nearby could enjoy the festive lighting, rather than focusing only on Sha Tin Town Centre or Sand Martin Bridge; and
- (b) he said that one of the sponsors of the activities indicated in the funding application was the Hong Kong and China Gas Company Limited (Towngas), which sponsored \$5,000 so it could display its trademark in the activities at the expense of the DC. He asked the Secretariat why DC Members could not display the logo of Towngas as the sponsor on the publicity materials for which DC Members would apply for reimbursement of operating expenses. He thought that this represented a double standard.

68. The views of Mr CHAN Pui-ming were summarised below:

- (a) he expressed the hope that the presentation in the briefing could become an annex to the funding paper;
- (b) in his opinion, the design of the festive lighting was out of date. During the briefing, members also made suggestions on the style and design and asked whether the lighting would be improved accordingly; and
- (c) regarding the project of adding festive lighting to the University MTR Station, he asked the Highways Department (HyD) or other relevant departments what they thought about adding festive lighting there.

69. Mr TSANG Kit thought that the cost of the activities was high. He said that since the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (Hong Kong National Security Law) had been passed, he asked whether they could consider using Taobao. As Hong Kong was part of China, the shipping should be free so that expenses could be saved. He said he had reservations about the Christmas lighting activity and asked if Christmas was in conflict with the Hong Kong National Security Law. In addition, he asked why the voting system had two options for opposition and abstention, rather than only approval. He said that there was no such option as opposition or abstention but only approval under the Hong Kong National Security Law. He hoped that the relevant departments would give an explanation.

70. The Chairman said that DCs were representatives of public, and members could still vote for, against or abstain from voting.

71. Mr Ricardo LIAO said that he had asked about the membership composition of the Planning Committee in the briefing, but there was no information in the paper, and the membership list could not be found through online search either. He said that some members reflected that the lighting design was outdated and asked who the members of the Planning Committee were and what their ages were. He said that the location of Siu Lek Yuen in the east of Shing Mun River lacked festive atmosphere and suggested that festive lighting should be added to the location extending from Shing Mun River.

72. The views of Mr Felix CHOW were summarised below:

- (a) he asked why the meeting paper had not shown the information in the briefing and the review upon members' comments. He hoped that the contents of the meeting paper could be enriched;
- (b) he said that the festive lighting of Sha Tin was an important opportunity for the public to get to know STDC. However, the lighting design was frightening. For example, the design of portrait at Tai Wai Roundabout frightened people rather than making them adore it when they watched it from a distance on a transport vehicle. He suggested using neon lights to spell out classic lines in movies or interesting sentences and reducing portraits; and
- (c) he suggested that more DC Members could be appointed to the tender panel of the Planning Committee next year. He said that there were not many companies installing large-scale lighting on the market so there was a lack of competition. He thought that

it would be more ideal to separate tender into two tenders, one for design and the other for assembly and disassembly, and to also invite designers to offer their opinions.

73. The Chairman said that he had to deal with an urgent case, so the meeting would then be presided over by the Vice-Chairman Mr CHENG Chung-hang.

74. Mr Johnny CHUNG said that consideration should be given to whether the activities would be cost-effective and whether they had to be continued. He said that the design of festive lighting fell behind the current aesthetic standards. Taking the roundabout in Ma On Shan as an example, the name of the Planning Committee was larger than the main body of the lighting. He asked whether the purpose of the activity was to increase festival atmosphere or to promote the Planning Committee itself and thought that such practice was unreasonable. Another example was the light sign opposite Lucky Plaza on Yuen Wo Road. The area of the logo of the STDO accounted for about two-thirds of the cartoon mouse pattern. There was no need to put such a huge logo to publicise itself. Instead, beautiful lighting should be designed to share happiness with the people. He said that members could not participate in the design of the lighting, while there was no information about members of the Planning Committee on the Internet. He suggested using neon lights to form characters or creating the effect of flow in light tubes to keep up with the trend. He suggested that the STDO should make the Planning Committee more transparent so that the lighting design could keep pace with the times.

75. The Vice-Chairman said that as Mr Billy CHAN, Mr CHIU Chu-pong and Mr LO Tak-ming were present at the meeting, so their applications for leave could be cancelled.

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

- (a) he said that he did not agree to the use of this sum of funding of \$2 million because residents in the district complained about the lighting activities. He said that it had happened in the past in the lighting activities that the lights were turned off on the first day of the New Year and then turned on again on the third and fourth day of the New Year, and such inauspicious occurrence directly affected the perception of residents. In addition, he commented that the lighting was not satisfactory in terms of aesthetics or practicality;
- (b) he said he was dissatisfied with the allocation of more than \$2 million for the lighting activities while STDC funding had to be reduced. He said that it would not be a good idea to spend a huge amount of money to hold these activities when environmentalists and residents contested that the Governments had been advocating energy saving;
- (c) he commented that it was not proper for a sponsor to get publicity just by sponsoring \$5,000. He thought many businesses would be willing to pay this price if a sponsor could enjoy the effect of publicity by sponsoring \$5,000;
- (d) he said that it was not appropriate to spend money on these celebrations under the current social atmosphere. He believed that these funds could be used for people's livelihood or anti-epidemic measures. He suggested that lighting activities should be stopped;
- (e) he said that Christmas was not a traditional Chinese festival. To be politically correct, commemorating Deng Xiaoping's birthday could be considered; and

- (f) he said he would vote against the application because he did not think it was worth the money and the STDC could do other more practical things.

77. The Vice-Chairman reminded members that there were media taking photos and shooting videos in the public gallery.

78. The Vice-Chairman asked about the criteria for selection of sponsors regarding the promotion upon sponsoring \$5,000.

79. Ms LEE Kit-ling gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) she said that members had put forward their opinions on the design at the briefing and she would submit them to the tender panel for consideration. As there was no design yet, it would be necessary to wait for the contractor to submit the design before screening;
- (b) she said the locations of the lighting would depend on the budget and the availability of electricity; as for the location of the University MTR Station, they were studying the feasibility of borrowing electricity with CLP Power Hong Kong Limited and relevant government departments;
- (c) she said that a sponsor had to sponsor at least \$60,000 to display its logo on the lighting, whilst the rest of the sponsors would be invited to attend the ceremony and receive a thank-you letter. Therefore, there would be the logos of just a few institutions on the lighting;
- (d) she said that the presentation of the briefing last time could be released to members for reference;
- (e) she said that the lighting would be installed at 12 locations, including Sha Tin, Tai Wai, Fo Tan and Ma On Shan. Therefore, a considerable amount of money would be involved and she hoped members would understand;
- (f) she said that as the funding application was submitted in mid-June, so the Hong Kong National Security Law was not taken into account;
- (g) she said that arrangements in response to the pandemic had been added to the application form this year and there would be corresponding epidemic prevention measures, and whether to hold a switch-on ceremony or a closing ceremony would be considered according to the situation of the pandemic;
- (h) she said that the theme of the festive lighting this year was romance, warmth and Valentine's Day. She hoped that the contractor could provide some innovative designs for members' consideration. If necessary, the designs could also be submitted to the STDC for reference;
- (i) she said members of the Planning Committee were appointed by the District Officer (Sha Tin). The members were mainly stakeholders of the district, including members of the local community, representatives of non-profit organisations, principals, residents' organisations, including people from all walks of life, as well as DC

Members. These members were interested in festive lighting or community activities in Sha Tin. The list of the 29 members of the Planning Committee had been uploaded on the Planning Committee's Facebook page;

- (j) with regard to the proposal of adding festive lighting to Siu Lek Yuen or the waterfront promenade in Ma On Shan, she said that it would be necessary to consider the budget and make a choice of where to hang the lighting;
- (k) she said that some members suggested that the tender for design, the assembly and disassembly should be separated. The main consideration was the cost. As the current plan was that the same company would complete the design as well as the assembly and disassembly works, it was worried that if the design cost was too high, there might not be enough budget for the assembly and disassembly works;
- (l) she said that the issues about font size and design would be reflected to the Planning Committee for its consideration;
- (m) she said that LED lamps were mainly used at present for the lighting which power consumption would not be too high, but she would reflect the situation to the contractor;
- (n) she said that some of the lights on the Shing Mun River did not light up one year on the second day of the New Year. Since then, the STDO had arranged staff to step up patrols. The situation had improved in recent years; and
- (o) she said that the STDC had set aside \$2.45 million for Christmas and New Year lighting this year. She hoped members would consider the 4 funding applications submitted by the Planning Committee.

80. The Vice-Chairman asked about the participation of the STDC and wanted to learn about the process of the activities. In addition, he asked why these persons were appointed as members of the Planning Committee, what sector they belonged to, what proportion of the members were of that sector, and whether they were competent for the position.

81. Ms LEE Kit-ling said that the Planning Committee would start to discuss the tendering for the lighting and the work of the ceremony and publicity team in April, and then prepare the tender documents. She said that members of the Planning Committee would include members of the local community, such as rural committees, mutual aid committees, owners' committees, owners' corporations, non-profit organisations, schools, social workers or local organisations, and they mainly would invite those who were interested to join.

82. The Vice-Chairman expressed the hope that the participation of the STDC would be increased in the future and DC Members could be included as members of the Planning Committee. He suggested that the details of the cost of each location should be listed in the funding application, so that members could learn about the budget.

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

- (a) he said that he had been a member of the Planning Committee, and Mr WAI Hing-cheung was also a member. However, in this year's list, there was a lack of representatives from the STDC, except Mr CHING Cheung-ying, the Chairman of the STDC. He believed that if the appointment of these committee members was political first, it could be difficult to obtain funding support from the STDC;
- (b) in his opinion, it would be useless for the STDO to say it would relay the views of members, as the Planning Committee might not listen;
- (c) he said that even the enactment of some laws would not be able to restore the social atmosphere in the past. He believed that if lighting activities were to be held, they should be simplified and expenses should be reduced;
- (d) he said that the population of Sha Tin District was growing and ageing, and suggested that more resources could be devoted to dental services;
- (e) he revealed that from his previous experience in the Planning Committee, he knew that that members would follow the practice of the previous year and would not make much change; and
- (f) he said that there was a surplus of calendars printed every year, and that the distribution time of the STDO overlapped with the working hours of the public. He believed that the allocation had to be used properly. He said that it would be impossible for the society to return to the atmosphere in the past. These activities should be stopped if they could not adapt and change.

84. The views of Mr Jimmy SHAM were summarised below:

- (a) he asked whether the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF), which was very concerned about all major public events, had been consulted for this paper. He said that recent applications for holding large-scale public events were opposed by the police and listed a series of questions. He believed that the STDO should also ask the police if they had to answer any questions regarding holding these large-scale activities. He said that these questions included how they could prevent a small number of people from hijacking the activities to commit illegal acts. He said that he did not know whether there would be a small number of people hijacking the lighting activities in violation of the Hong Kong National Security Law, resulting in the risk of law violation. He asked the organiser how it could ensure that no one among the 500 000 participants would commit any illegal acts. He thought that the police should first be consulted to see if there was no problem in the activities;
- (b) he asked whether the STDO had to consult the Office for Safeguarding National Security of the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (CPG Office on National Security) as the National Anthem might have to be played or sung in the activities and it might not be patriotic enough if the National Anthem was not played or sung. He also asked whether Christmas celebrations would be regarded as collusion with foreign forces, and whether the team of the activities involved foreigners, because he was worried that

funding related activities might be funding activities in violation of the Hong Kong National Security Law; and

- (c) he said that Annex A of the paper showed that the STDO would keep a detailed list of all participants. He asked whether all these 500 000 participants would have to register their personal information with their real names for contact tracking; if it was not feasible, how the STDO could ensure that there would be no invisible spreaders. One of the reasons why the police objected to the parade on 1 July was that they could not locate invisible spreaders.

85. Ms WONG Man-huen said that these activities might not be able to achieve the 3 expected benefits or results mentioned in the paper. She believed that these activities were built behind closed doors. She said that the activity would involve more than \$2 million and suggested that they should study how to increase residents' participation, such as opening the activities for the public to design or vote for the design of the lighting. Otherwise, the expected results would not be achieved.

86. Ms LEE Kit-ling gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) she said that the tender would show the cost of the lighting at each location, but the information should not be made public for the time being. She could reflect to the Planning Committee to see whether the information could be provided to members;
- (b) as for the composition of members of the Planning Committee, she said that suitable members of the local community had been included. In the past, several DC Members had participated in the Planning Committee, but their attendance rate was not particularly high. Therefore, they hoped to invite more members of the local community to participate in the Planning Committee;
- (c) she said that lighting installations in Sha Tin were set at 12 locations in the past. If the University MTR Station was added, there would be a total of 13 locations. Taking Christmas decorations which would be hung for 28 days as an example, metal frames would have to be made and installed while the structures were complex, so the cost would not be too low;
- (d) regarding the proposal of using the funds for dental services, she said that since the funds were allocated for festival celebrations, it would be difficult to use the funds for other purposes. She hoped members would understand;
- (e) she said that the calendars printed would be distributed to schools, residents' organisations, local organisations, Ma On Shan branch office and MTR station in addition to the Home Affairs Enquiry Centre. The public also hoped that the Planning Committee would continue to print calendars;
- (f) she said that she would try her best to relay members' opinions to the Planning Committee for reference, hoping to make more changes in the design;
- (g) she said that both the Leisure and Cultural Services Department and the HKPF were represented at the meeting of the Planning Committee. As a result, the police were aware of the operation of the Planning Committee and were informed of its activities through the STDO;

- (h) she said that the 500 000 expected participants indicated in the funding application included the number of people appreciating the lighting and only about 2 000 people would be involved in the ceremonies;
- (i) she explained that no special consideration was given to the Hong Kong National Security Law since the application was submitted in mid-June;
- (j) she said that Christmas was a festival of universal celebration, and lighting in Sha Tin had a history of 38 years, whilst the public also hoped to have festive lighting for appreciation at Christmas and the Chinese New Year; and
- (k) she said that lighting design competitions had been held in the past two years, but the response was not enthusiastic and the quality of the competing designs was not very good so the competitions were not quite successful.

87. Mr HUI Lap-san said that he would visit Sha Tin Park to watch the lighting and take photos when he was a child. However, he said that with the rise of social media in the recent decade, people would visit MOSTown or Times Square and not Sha Tin Park for festive lighting, as the festive lighting design in Sha Tin had been the same for 30 years. In response to the STDO's comment that they had held lighting design competitions for Sha Tin, but the response was not enthusiastic, perhaps it was due to the lack of publicity. He thought that lighting activities could keep pace with the times and be enjoyed by all people. He said that there was a School of Design under the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, an Academy of Visual Arts under the Hong Kong Baptist University, and a Faculty of Arts under the Chinese University of Hong Kong. He believed that if the competition could strengthen promotion and gave out awards, it should not lack participants. He said that if we wanted Sha Tin to become a scenic spot, he suggested that some local projects could be developed with local universities to design festive lighting with Sha Tin characteristics.

88. Mr Billy CHAN explained that he was late for the meeting because he had to bail some members of the public out. He said that more than \$2 million had been requested for these lighting activities, but the lighting design could not attract the expected number of participants. He said he saw some puzzling designs in the briefing, such as a pig leading a deer. He pointed out that the STDO had not answered the question on how the problem of the design could be solved. Even though the STDO said that it could provide further information of the design to members, the funding would have been approved by then. He asked how the STDO could ensure a better design and then apply for funding from STDC. He said that Christmas was a foreign festival, so whether they, as Chinese, should continue to celebrate it or not, and asked if they could vote separately on the funding applications.

89. The views of Mr Johnny CHUNG were summarised below:

- (a) he expressed the hope that the presentation of the briefing could be put in the meeting paper as an annex for public access. He said that the HyD would also include the presentation in its consultation paper in the meeting paper to let the public know about the work of the government department. He said the public had the right to know about the work of the Planning Committee; and
- (b) he said that some municipal governments of places outside Hong Kong would crossover with cartoon characters, which could not only enhance effect, but also avoid unsightly design.

90. The Vice-Chairman said that as Mr SHEK William was present at the meeting, so his application for leave could be cancelled.

91. The Vice-Chairman said that as aesthetic standards were subjective, he suggested that members could provide information and examples for the STDO's consideration. He said members might not be clear about the contents of the tender and hoped that the STDO would provide the tender for reference.

92. Ms LEE Kit-ling gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) she said that the plan was that the names of the participants would be registered before they entered the venue of the switch-on or the closing ceremony so that the information of the participants could be tracked if necessary due to the pandemic;
- (b) she said that the Secretariat had called tertiary institutions and schools to invite students to participate in the lighting design competitions in the past. However, external feedback was received saying that the response was not very enthusiastic and it was probably because the competitions were held during the exam season and the prizes were not very attractive;
- (c) she said that the opinions on design could be reflected to members of the Planning Committee, and there was no relevant design for reference at present. She said that there were mice in the design, because this year was the Year of the Rat. If the Chinese zodiac was not used as the theme, there was also a plan to use romance and warmth as the theme of the lighting this year;
- (d) she said that most of the contents of the presentation in the briefing could be open for public reference, but the sponsors might not be willing to disclose the amount of sponsorship, so the relevant information could not be disclosed. She said that information on past activities could be included in the presentation for reference; and
- (e) she said that sharing contents of the tender for members' reference could be considered after consulting members of the Planning Committee. However, the contents of the tender should be kept confidential and could be provided to STDC Members' for reference if necessary.

93. The Vice-Chairman commented that the composition of the members of the Planning Committee was always the same. He asked about the average age of the members of the Planning Committee, because members thought that the lighting design was out of date. He suggested that the Planning Committee could consider crossing over with cartoon characters and would like the STDO to comment whether it would be feasible.

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

- (a) he said that he had expressed his views to the STDO during the briefing. The staff of the STDO pointed out that new technologies had been used, from light bulbs to energy-saving light bulbs, and then to LED lamp. He commented that graphic design would be relatively easy to change, but three-dimensional lighting would easily make viewers feel out-of-date and old-fashioned because it would involve paper crafting techniques, which was similar to the paper-crafted lanterns of the Mid-Autumn Festival. Lighting

of such a style was still acceptable during the Mid-Autumn Festival but unfit for Christmas, which was a western festival;

- (b) he said that the activities could consider inviting title sponsors to design the lighting and should not rely too much on the design of the lighting contractor;
- (c) he said that the festive lighting should make members feel that the funding was used properly. However, the design created by the current contractor was rather conservative, which failed to satisfy members. He suggested that the STDO could improve the design; and
- (d) he said that there was no bridge at present for members to understand the operation of the Planning Committee. There was only one DC Member in the Planning Committee, and there was no DC Member in the Sha Tin District Fight Crime Committee either. He thought that the STDO had been using these committees as recompense for political services, so that the STDC could not monitor them. He thought that it was the evil result of the work of the former District Officer.

95. The Vice-Chairman said that as Ms LUK Tsz-tung was present at the meeting, so her application for leave could be cancelled.

96. The views of Mr CHAN Pui-ming were summarised below:

- (a) he agreed that the design and the assembly and disassembly could be separated into two parts. In his opinion, the lighting design was not satisfactory. He asked whether a preliminary assessment had been made and how much additional cost would be incurred. He believed that inviting tenders for design and preparation could better control the cost;
- (b) he said that part of the expenses of the activities were used for publicity. He said that he found two pages on social media about festive lighting in Sha Tin, namely, the Facebook page of the Planning Committee and the account of Sha Tin festive lighting. However, only a few hundred people clicked “like” for the activities. He asked whether the funding for lighting activities in the past included the publicity and operating expenses of these two accounts; and
- (c) he asked if the Planning Committee would send members to attend the meeting of the STDC to answer questions raised by members on the preparation of the activities.

97. The Vice-Chairman said that members would like to consider the design before tendering, rather than tendering before design, and asked whether this would be feasible.

98. Ms LEE Kit-ling gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) she said that she would reflect members’ opinions to the Planning Committee;
- (b) she said that members of the Planning Committee ranged from 20s to 60s, and she would supplement information on their average age later;

(Post-meeting note: The average age of members of the Planning Committee was 51.)

- (c) she said that the comment on paper crafting techniques would be reflected to the contractor so it could avoid using too many paper crafting techniques in the design;
- (d) she said that sponsors mainly sponsored money and attended ceremonies in the past and they might not have the intention to provide designs to the Planning Committee. If sponsors provided designs, the activities could become promotion for those companies and would deviate from the starting point of community activities. She hoped members would understand;
- (e) she said that it would take extra time if the design and the works would be separated. Apart from tendering for the design and the works, the STDO also had to start applying to other government departments for the locations of electricity borrowing or lamp posts for hanging of the lighting and had to communicate with different government departments. Therefore, technically it would be difficult to handle the design and the installation separately this year, but she would reflect the opinion to the Planning Committee; and
- (f) she said that the Facebook page of the Planning Committee did not entail any cost or funds of the STDC.

99. The views of Mr HUI Yui-yu were summarised below:

- (a) he suggested considering the production of dynamic elements, such as laser performance or adding smoke effect, or adding music, to make the activities more diversified;
- (b) he said that even when there was a police representative in the Planning Committee, that representative did not express any objection did not mean the police agreed. There had been many demonstrations, even having been approved, the police would fire tear gas in the middle of them, beat the demonstrators because they heard something that they were not happy with, and arrange for undercovers to coax a snake out of hiding. Therefore, even if the police said there was no problem at the meeting, it might not mean there would actually be no problem;
- (c) he asked whether the Christmas lighting was in violation of the District Councils Ordinance. In the past, the Office had quoted the District Councils Ordinance to refuse to discuss certain issues at the meeting because the discussion items had nothing to do with Sha Tin or involved matters outside Sha Tin. He said that Jesus was not born in Hong Kong and had never been to Hong Kong. Christmas was a western festival which also had nothing to do with Sha Tin. In addition, Christmas was celebrated throughout Hong Kong and not just in Sha Tin; and
- (d) Jesus was not also born in Hong Kong. He said that many Sha Tin residents would celebrate Christmas. He said that there was a problem with the standard of the STDO. If the same standard was considered, Christmas would not be in line with the District Councils Ordinance. He hoped that the STDO would consult the Department of Justice.

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

- (a) he asked the Secretariat whether the name of a commercial organisation could be included in the activities funded by the STDC and why no operating expenses would be reimbursed if the name of a commercial organisation appeared on the publicity materials of STDC Members;
- (b) he asked whether the STDO would allocate additional funds if the installation and demolition costs later exceeded the budget;
- (c) he asked rhetorically the New Year's lighting of which year did not adopt the theme of Chinese zodiac. He said that there was neither relevant information nor pictures of the lighting in the funding paper, so it would be difficult to approve the funding solely based on the contents of the paper. He said that the festive lighting in the past felt strange when viewed from the bottom up, and the flashing lights had also caused accidents to cyclists. He commented that if it had to create a romantic and warm atmosphere, the lighting might have to be redesigned. He suggested that schools of design in Hong Kong could be invited to help; and
- (d) he said that it was already July. If the funding could not be approved today, it could only be approved at the next meeting and then the activities might not be ready in December.

101. Mr CHAN Nok-hang believed that it was unreasonable for the STDO not to invite DC Members to join the Planning Committee because some DC Members had been invited to join the committee but they had not attended meetings. He said that the Planning Committee had worked in the same way and only followed the practice of the previous year every year. Moreover, some members of the Planning Committee had been members of the committee since 2012. He asked whether there were no better candidates. He said that although members of the Planning Committee might not listen to the opinions of the STDC, which was dominated by Pro-democracy camp, because of their political position, he still hoped that members of the Planning Committee would listen to their opinions.

102. Ms LEE Kit-ling gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) she said that Christmas music had been added to the Christmas lighting at Lek Yuen Bridge, while wave effects and dynamic elements had also been added at the pool;
- (b) she explained that the lighting activities were covered in the funding for festivals and celebrations;
- (c) she said that members of the Planning Committee would invite sponsors to sponsor the activities only after such sponsor had been reviewed as suitable and would not invite companies that were unsuitable to sponsor activities. The lighting would only display the sponsors' trademarks and there would be no light signs specially set up for publicity of the sponsors;

- (d) she said that at present tender would be invited altogether for design and installation of the lighting, so there would be no additional funding. However, if the design and the installation would be handled separately, the handling would be difficult in terms of both time and cost; and
- (e) she said that New Year's lighting in the past would base on the theme of Chinese zodiac, but romance and warmth would be added to the theme of this year's Christmas lighting.

(The meeting was then presided over by Mr Wilson LI.)

103. Mr HUI Yui-yu asked whether the celebration of Christmas, a western festival, would violate the District Councils Ordinance and whether the STDO had made any legal consultation.

104. Mr TSANG Kit expressed the hope that the STDO would first clarify whether Jesus was Chinese. In his opinion, the meeting should not discuss whether the lighting was beautiful or not, but whether the lighting had Chinese characteristics. He asked whether the STDO would be responsible for the intentional or unintentional violation of the Hong Kong National Security Law and whether the STDO had consulted the police on the lighting design. He believed that the STDO could not answer whether the lighting was in violation of the Hong Kong National Security Law, so he believed that the STDO should consult the police before submitting the paper for members' consideration again.

(The meeting was then presided by Mr CHENG Chung-hang.)

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

- (a) he said that apart from attracting more people to participate in community building, the STDO set up committees to promote harmonious community cooperation and encourage more capable people to promote and develop the community. But he thought that the current situation was not doing this. He thought that the establishment of the Planning Committee made the community discordant and disharmonious, and create differentiation, opposition and contradiction;
- (b) he said that when the STDO formulate the membership list of a committee in the past, it would submit the list to the STDC. At that time, Mr James CHAN expressed his wish to join the committee and asked why he was not appointed. He said that the membership list of the committee under the STDO was not submitted to the STDC this year. Instead, the membership list of the Planning Committee was published on Facebook;
- (c) he said that there were many new DC Members joining this year. He asked why they were not invited to join these committees to contribute to the community. Instead, those who were not elected and were not authorised by the public opinion were invited to join;
- (d) he said that the past members of the Planning Committee had not included the Chairman of the STDC, but this year, the Chairman of the STDC was invited to join, but other STDC Members were not included; and

- (e) he said that the new Secretary had been asked about the composition of these committees, and he responded that these committees would be formed based on meritocracy. He said that if he really believed so, it would be an insult to the STDC, meaning that there were no talents among DC Members, whether new or re-elected. He said that if the funding was approved in this case, it would mean members admitted that they had no talent.

106. Mr CHAN Nok-hang said that he believed that none of the members present would object to the holding of cultural and recreational activities for the residents of Sha Tin District. He appreciated that the president of Sha Tin Sports Association who came in person to the meeting of the STDC listen to opinions, but the chairman of the Planning Committee did not attend the meeting and showed no sincerity. He said that Members were raising a lot of questions because they did not understand, were not clear and were not sure whether their views could really be relayed to the Planning Committee. He said that DC Members' duty was to discuss policies, not to be hand-raising machines. If the funding was not approved today, he hoped that the STDO could invite the chairman of the Planning Committee attend the meeting to explain their application and listen to opinions.

107. Mr Billy CHAN said that no one from the STDO answered just now whether the celebration of western festivals would violate the District Councils Ordinance and asked whether it would be possible to vote separately on Annex 1 of the paper. He said that according to the Bible and the first chapter of Matthew, Jesus Christ was the descendant of Abraham, and Abraham came from Ur which was the southern part of Iraq. Therefore, he was not a Chinese and celebrating Christmas would be celebrating a western festival. He suggested that the STDO should take out the funding application in Annex 1.

108. Mr TSANG Kit said that he had no intention to offend members with religious beliefs, but he reminded members that they could refer to the latest published Bible in the People's Republic of China.

109. Mr Johnny CHUNG said that what kind of person Jesus was should first be understood. He said that Jesus was crucified and convicted of treason in the Roman Empire at that time, because he was accused of pretending to be the king of the Jews. When the Jewish people understood the prophecy about him, they thought that he would overthrow the government of the Roman Empire with thousands of troops. He said that he did not know whether the festival of this revolutionary figure could be celebrated under the Hong Kong National Security Law. Therefore, he believed that the STDC should not discuss this Christmas lighting activity anymore.

110. The Vice-Chairman said that he had experience in the advertising industry and thought that the Planning Committee's practice was not up to the standard and did not respect the participation of members. They only submitted a paper to ask for funding. He thought the STDO could first collect members' opinions on the design and collect information first. He offered that he would welcome questions on his opinions about market or administrative practices. He said that in response to Members' doubts about Christmas lighting, he thought they could vote separately on the funding applications after having consulted the Secretariat and he also intended to do so. He reminded members that it was 6:30 pm and cleaners were already waiting outside the conference room to clean the venue.

111. Mr Michael YUNG asked whether there was a quorum to vote now, otherwise the meeting might need to be continued next time.

112. The Vice-Chairman announced counting of the number of members present and members in the DC Members' lounge were invited to enter the conference room.

(The meeting was then presided over by Mr Wilson LI.)

113. The Chairman reminded that there were still many items that had not been discussed at the moment, and air conditioning would be suspended at 7 pm, so he hoped that the meeting would continue until 7 pm. He said that there was a quorum in the conference room to vote at the time.

114. The Chairman said that after discussing with the Vice-Chairman, he proposed to vote separately on the funding applications.

115. Mr HUI Yui-yu said that the members had been discussing for two hours and asked the Secretariat why it proposed for voting separately on the application and whether it was influenced by any Member's speech. He hoped to know the actual reason.

116. The Chairman said that he understood that it was due to the Vice-Chairman's suggestion. He would first invite the Vice-Chairman to give an explanation and then invite the Secretariat to supplement on it.

117. Mr CHENG Chung-hang said that this proposal was made because he had asked the Secretariat whether this practice was feasible after learning of the opinions of members, and the Secretariat said it was feasible.

118. Ms Helen WONG, Executive Officer (District Council)2 of the STDO supplemented that the Vice-Chairman had asked just now whether it would be feasible to vote separately on the funding application. Since the CSCDC had similar practice in the past, so it should be feasible in theory. And the proposal was not put forward by the Secretariat.

119. The Chairman said the meeting would now vote on Annex 1 "2020/2021 Sha Tin Festive Lighting – Installation and Dismantling of Christmas Festive Lighting". Due to the objection of some members, the voting system would be used.

120. The Chairman announced that the said funding application was vetoed by 1 affirmative vote, 18 negative votes, and 4 abstention votes.

121. The Chairman said the meeting would now vote on Annex 2 "2020/2021 Sha Tin Festive Lighting – Installation and Dismantling of Chinese New Year Festive Lighting". Due to the objection of some members, the voting system would be used.

122. The Chairman announced that the said funding application was vetoed by 2 affirmative votes, 17 negative votes, and 3 abstention votes.

123. The Chairman said the meeting would now vote on Annex 3 "2020/2021 Sha Tin Festive Lighting". Due to the objection of some members, the voting system would be used.

124. The Chairman announced that the said funding application was vetoed by 2 affirmative votes, 16 negative votes, and 3 abstention votes.

125. The Chairman said the meeting would now vote on Annex 4 “2020/2021 Sha Tin Festive Lighting Closing Ceremony cum Chinese Lantern Festival Carnival and 2020/2021 Sha Tin Festive Lighting Photography Contest”. Due to the objection of some members, the voting system would be used.

126. The Chairman announced that the said funding application was vetoed by 2 affirmative votes, 17 negative votes, and 3 abstention votes.

Funding Application of the Sha Tin District National Education Committee
(Paper No. CSCD 39/2020)

127. The Chairman asked members of the Sha Tin District National Education Committee (STDNEC) to raise their hands to declare their interests. He said no members declared interests.

128. Mr TING Tsz-yuen said that as a Chinese, he should support the funding application for the activity with the theme of “Chinese propriety”, because the Chinese culture was broad and profound, and the Chinese people were a nation of etiquette and righteousness, so this cultural heritage had to be promoted. He said that some central official commented recently that the era of Chinese people looking at people’s faces and looking up to people’s noses was gone forever, and he had to ask whether it was self-confidence or arrogance and there was just a fine line between these two attitudes. He was not sure whether the official understood the idea of persuading people by virtue or what a state of propriety and righteousness was, and whether he had read the Analects of Confucius, the Book of Songs, and the Di Zi Gui and maybe the official was familiar with the Quotations from Chairman Mao Tse-tung or General Secretary Xi Jinping Important Speech Series. He said that under the Hong Kong National Security Law, people’s freedom of speech was gone forever. He hoped to remind government officials who held national education activities that in addition to “Kong Rong shares the pears” and “standing in the snow to wait upon Master Cheng respectfully”, there were also stories such as “the fox mourns over the death of the hare” and “the hounds are killed for food once all hares are bagged”. He hoped that officials would not act as the guide to a tiger, or they would be beyond redemption and be notorious for thousands of years. He said that in addition to the Di Zi Gui, the Quotations from Chairman Mao Tse-tung or General Secretary Xi Jinping Important Speech Series could be added to these activities, so that children could learn the patriotic culture, because only the great Communist Party could lead a strong and prosperous country. However, in these educational themes, children should also be taught what faithful words grate upon the ear, to be heartfelt and sincere, to choose and pursue righteousness, and even if they wanted to tamper with history, everything would be recorded by the people, the Internet, time and history.

129. Mr HUI Yui-yu said that the STDO and the Secretariat used to disobey the rules and contradict themselves. He said that the paper showed that the activities were to help Sha Tin residents understand the development and contribution of “tea” to China’s economy, trade, diplomacy and culture, which was a very broad theme. But in the past, even matters beyond Sha Tin could not be discussed. He said that he had always opposed the interpretation of the District Councils Ordinance by the STDO, but the STDO insisted on going its own way. He hoped that the STDO could explain why these activities could be discussed and asked whether these activities were in violation of the District Councils Ordinance, because the STDO said that the DC could only discuss matters related to Sha Tin residents.

130. Mr TSANG Kit asked whether these activities were beyond the terms of reference of the STDC. He hoped that the STDO would clarify this issue first. He said the funding application was submitted before the endorsement of the Hong Kong National Security Law, so he hoped that the STDO would first clearly explain whether the paper was against the law.

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

- (a) he asked who the members of the STDNEC were. He said that he had been invited to join the committee as the only pan-Democratic member of the committee in the last term by Ms HO, the former District Officer (Sha Tin) , but none of the members present were members of the committee;
- (b) he said that the preparatory period for these activities was from July this year to February 2021, but social gathering ban was still in effect for the time being. He asked whether these activities could actually be held; and
- (c) he said that the contents of the Di Zi Gui and the Analects of Confucius were very abstruse. He asked what tutors would be invited by the STDO to teach the workshop. He said that he came from a Confucian school. He used to recite the Four Books and Five Classics and understood how profound they were. He hoped that the STDO would explain the details of the activity.

132. The views of Mr Johnny CHUNG were summarised below:

- (a) he thought that the name of the committee was not clear;
- (b) he said that assuming that the committee was the Committee on the National Education of the People's Republic of China in Sha Tin District, while the content of the activity had little to do with the People's Republic of China as the content of these activities mainly related to the Di Zi Gui, the Analects of Confucius, tea, etc., which had appeared before the founding of the People's Republic of China, he thought that these activities were not related to the committee and the name of the committee would be more suitable and appropriate if it was changed to Huaxia Culture Education Committee in Sha Tin District; and
- (c) he said that both the Analects of Confucius and the Di Zi Gui originated from the ideas put forward by Confucius, an ancient sage. During the Spring and Autumn period and the Warring States period, it was because of the incompetence of the king of the Eastern Zhou Dynasty that the Zhuhou partitioned the king's power and land, which led to the emergence of the Spring and Autumn period. He said that Confucius was also a reactionary, trying to put forward new ideas and seek to usurp the throne in the era of contention among a hundred schools of thought. Therefore, he questioned whether these activities were in line with national conditions.

133. The Chairman invited the cleaning staff to enter the meeting room for cleaning while members could continue the discussion.

134. Mr CHAN Pui-ming said that in the Analects of Confucius, it was mentioned that "Ruling and disciplining the people with laws and punishments will make them avoid, but not ashamed of committing crime. Ruling and disciplining them with virtue and propriety will make them avoid

from committing crime, but also ashamed of doing so”. It meant that if a regime dealt with the people with cruel politics and severe punishment, the people would be afraid of law and punishment, but they would not be ashamed of breaking the law. And “Ruling and disciplining them with virtue and propriety will make them avoid from committing crime, but also ashamed of doing so” referred to the fact that the government was moral to the people while it itself was also abide by the rules of propriety. The Zhou Dynasty was a feudal regime, and the propriety was the self-regulation that the power class needed to abide by at that time. However, the current government was “Ruling and disciplining the people with tyrannical rule and severe punishment”. He said that yesterday he saw hundreds of people arrested for no reason, had their hands tied up and sprayed pepper spray, and reporters were also shot with water cannon for no reason. He believed that the STDNEC could publicise the Analects of Confucius to the police, hoping that the STDO would reflect the relevant opinions;

135. Mr LO Tak-ming said that under the Hong Kong National Security Law, great flexibility was reserved to allow the regime to interpret words arbitrarily so that the police could enforce the law. He was worried that the discussion of this paper would make them fall into the trap of the Hong Kong National Security Law by mistake because some matters were not allowed to be discussed and he did not know whether his speech would break the law. In addition, he did not know whether it would be illegal to vote against the funding application. He hoped to clarify whether the matter could be discussed and he could vote freely without fear.

136. The Chairman said that the STDC was still a place with freedom of speech. He and the members present would defend their freedom of speech and right to speak.

137. Mr Michael YUNG expressed his understanding of the Chairman’s attempt to defend their right to speak, but he hoped to clarify their terms of reference and to know if they abstained or voted against this activity because it was not clear or for other reasons, whether they would be reprimanded later. He said that yesterday was the first day after the endorsement of the Hong Kong National Security Law. 3 STDC Members were arrested in Times Square. Another 10 persons were charged with violating the Hong Kong National Security Law because of some flags or words and phrases printed on mobile phone cases. It was also widely rumoured that some people took photos outside the office, causing white terror. If members did not endorse the funding application because of the unclear content of the activities or because of the need for prudent use of public funds, he wondered if they would be reprimanded. In his opinion, even the Chief Liaison Officer could not answer these questions because the Hong Kong National Security Law was passed and gazetted within a short period of time, and the provisions of the Law were only published at the moment when the Law was gazetted. He suggested that the relevant funding application should be postponed to the next meeting and requested the STDO to consult the Department of Justice before making a decision. He said that people’s biggest fear was that they did not know when they would be deprived of their rights, which was white terror.

138. The Chairman said that Chinese culture had a long history, including the Four books and Five Classics, benevolence, righteousness, propriety and wisdom, the Four Cardinal Principles and the Eight Virtues, which were very valuable cultures. He said that he understood the concerns of members and hoped the STDO would respond to their opinions. He would respect members’ opinions.

139. Ms Pannie LEUNG, Liaison Officer i/c (E)2 of the STDO gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) she said that the STDNEC hoped to help Sha Tin residents understand Chinese culture, art and history through organising different community activities. She said that the committee decided this year to take propriety as its theme and hoped to let the public learn about propriety through ancient books, which were rich in content. Therefore, the focus would be on such propriety elements as filial and fraternal piety and dealing with people in daily life;
- (b) she said the membership list could be viewed on the website of the STDNEC; and
- (c) she said that the implementation date would be from July this year to February in the coming year. Assuming that the funding would be approved, the preparatory activities would start in July and a series of activities including workshops and fun days would be organised. The workshop was expected to be held from October to November. Dance training on the Di Zi Gui would be organised for primary school students to explain the basic concepts of the Di Zi Gui to primary school students in the form of activities. Some stories about propriety would also be explained in shadow plays; in addition, secondary school students and residents of Sha Tin District would be organised to design patterns related to propriety with AR technology, and the finished works would be exhibited on the fun day in February next year.

140. The Chairman said that he had expected that they could vote on the funding applications today, but he would also respect the views of members and asked whether the vote had to be postponed.

141. Mr Michael YUNG said that the vote of the funding application should be postponed because he did not know whether they would fall into the trap of law by mistake if they did not endorse the funding to the STDNEC, or because the STDO's information was not clear, it was not certain how effective it would be. The Audit Commission might comment on the funding upon weighing the work and the value, and so the matter had to be handled with care.

142. The Chairman said that since there were many discussion items, the meeting would be resumed at 2:30 pm next Friday if necessary.

143. Ms NG Suk-min, Senior Liaison Officer (E) of the STDO gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) she said that since its establishment, the STDNEC had applied to the DC for funding every year. The themes of each year were different. In the past, it had held activities with the themes of daily life such as clothing, food, housing, transportation, health and tea. This year, it planned to hold workshops and fun days with the theme of propriety; and
- (b) she said that the relevant activities were purely community activities and she saw nothing to do with the Hong Kong National Security Law.

144. Mr Michael YUNG asked the representative of the STDO whether she had received legal training. He said that the person arrested yesterday was arrested only because of the sticker on his mobile phone and the arrest required no search warrant, which was worrying. He said that the Hong Kong National Security Law was gazetted after 11 pm on 30 June, and now it is 7:14 pm on 2 July. He asked the representative of the STDO whether she had read all the provisions carefully and whether she had consulted legal opinions. He said that even if the STDO thought it was fine, he was still worried that accounts would be squared later. He said he was worried that he might blurt out and incur some unnecessary fear. He said that when he had seen the arrested persons in Ma On Shan Police Station, they could not meet their families and he even had to consult the case supervisor to bring clothes to the arrested persons. Therefore, he was worried that the members could fall into the trap of law by mistake.

145. Mr CHAN Pui-ming asked members to search the Internet for what happened three months after “blame not the speaker but be warned by his words” was spoken, and then consider whether the relevant matters were really irrelevant to the Hong Kong National Security Law. He said that this saying was a big hit back then and there was the event where the Communist Party invited everyone to speak freely. As for what happened next, one could search by oneself for the answer.

146. Mr Raymond LI said that he fully supported Xi Jinping’s Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era and hoped that the national security officers would not come to him for anything. He said that a police officer asked him yesterday who he was. He replied that he was from Hong Kong, and the police officer said that he was from Hong Kong, China, and that he was suspected of violating the Hong Kong National Security Law. He said that he did not know whether the police officer misunderstood the relationship between China and Hong Kong or he was just slandering his position. He said that if he answered that he was a Hong Kong citizen, he would be considered as likely to violate the Hong Kong National Security Law, he was worried that if he opposed some matters related to the country or did not understand the education of the country clearly, he might also violate the law. He said that law enforcement departments should be invited to attend the meetings of the STDC and the committee to explain whether members’ speeches would be illegal.

147. Mr Johnny CHUNG said that in the Nationality Law of the People’s Republic of China (Chinese version), there was no such term as in Chinese as “中國國民”, only “公民”. He thought that it would be more appropriate for the committee to be renamed the Committee of Civic Education.

148. Mr LAI Tsz-yan suggested that the approval of the funding application could be postponed, and the STDO could find the ancient books that they hoped to promote education and submit them to the Department of Justice or the CPG Office on National Security for approval, and then submitted them to members for approval only after having confirmed that they comply with the Hong Kong National Security Law, so as to avoid members or the STDO falling into the trap of law by mistake.

149. The views of Mr LO Yuet-chau were summarised below:

- (a) he expressed surprise at members’ changing the rules of the game. At the briefing, he also reminded that the STDO to review Di Zi Gui to avoid disputes. However, the discussion later shifted to the Hong Kong National Security Law. He said that Di Zi Gui was more popular in Taiwan, so he thought that it would not be appropriate for the STDO to use Taiwan teaching materials; and

- (b) he said that at present there were disputes between China and India. He proposed that national education should take “Man Jiang Hong” as the theme to educate nationals to share a common hatred against the enemy. He thought that the content of the Di Zi Gui was out of time. He asked whether the STDO knew the historical background of Di Zi Gui and thought that the relevant activity might not improve national identity.

150. Ms NG Suk-min explained that STDNEC was established in 2008 to promote Chinese culture, art and history. It promoted Chinese culture and art through different themes every year. According to the information collected, Di Zi Gui was one of the chapters of the Analects of Confucius. It was a classic work thousands of years ago. Therefore, the organiser would promote Chinese rites through Di Zi Gui. The STDO would relay to the STDNEC the other classics recommended by members.

151. Mr Michael YUNG asked whether the representatives of the STDO had received legal training. In addition, the STDO had not responded to whether it would seek an explanation from the Department of Justice for the concerns of members. He said that “one China with different interpretation” was mentioned in the “1992 Consensus” and hoped that the STDO could give a clear explanation. He was worried that without a clear explanation from the STDO, one could violate the Hong Kong National Security Law by mistake.

152. The Chairman said that there was not enough quorum to vote at present and hoped that the discussion process could be sped up at the resumption of meeting after the Government responded.

153. Ms NG Suk-min said that the funding application submitted this time was purely a community activity, and members’ concerns were beyond the scope of the original design of the community activity, so she could not respond to the relevant questions.

154. Mr CHAN Wan-tung expressed the hope that the representatives of the STDO would not think that members were making things difficult for them, because everyone was in the same cage. The STDO thought that promoting these activities was national education, but these activities were not consistent with national education and were just the promotion of Chinese culture. He suggested that the STDO should not call these activities national education anymore. It would be more acceptable to call them the promotion of Chinese culture. He said that if these activities were not teaching participants to sing the national anthem or express emotional respect for the motherland with tears, they were not national education. He was worried that in such a political environment, the STDO could have political burdens that they would be under pressure if national education was not well done. He believed that these activities were not relevant. If they were to be held, it might be necessary to change the major premise to cultural promotion.

155. Mr Michael YUNG said that the representative of the STDO had not yet answered whether she had been trained in law and requested the STDO to answer him first.

156. Ms NG Suk-min replied she did not need to explain whether she had any qualification in the legal profession at the meeting.

157. Mr Michael YUNG said that the former District Officer once frankly admitted that she had not received professional legal training. Now the representative of the STDO thought that there was no problem so although members were concerned, the STDO was not reflecting the concerns of members to relevant departments for legal advice. He hoped to clarify that the items under deliberation did not violate the Hong Kong National Security Law. He said that liaison officers often

browsed members' Facebook pages and liked to capture screenshots. He was worried that if he was caught by mistake, he might not be able to be heard in the courts of Hong Kong, or he might not get a public trial. He was disappointed with the way the representative of the STDO handle things.

158. The Chairman said that he would invite the STDO to respond and also believed that the STDO had clearly gotten the views of the CSCDC. He thought that it might not be possible to vote on the funding today and hoped that government departments would give positive responses at the resumed meeting.

159. Mr CHEUNG Hing-wa pointed out that the STDO hoped to promote the contents of rites to the residents of Sha Tin District. However, we all saw what law the Central Government had recently promulgated for Hong Kong. This was understandable common and ordinary people in Hong Kong were afraid of the law of which provisions were only published after the law had been passed and gazetted. He said that the STDO failed to respond to members' concerns and that was why he asked if the STDO could seek the opinions of a third party, so that members could clearly understand how to deal with it so as not to fall into the trap of the law. He hoped that this would ensure that their work would not be affected by some bad laws while expressing their views in the Council. He believed that the relevant activities could not be regarded as national education, and that it would be more appropriate to change the description to Chinese culture education, because national education would involve identity and a sense of belonging to the country rather than the Huaxia culture advocated by the STDO.

160. Mr LO Yuet-chau thought that the level of the contents in Di Zi Gui was insufficient. He commented that the previous activities on tea could promote Chinese culture. However, he said that in this age of collapse of rites and music, it was inappropriate to submit an application for funding for this activity in the name of national education. Therefore, he could not accept the promotion of these rites in the name of national education and asked whether the teaching materials could be changed.

161. The Chairman said that there was not enough quorum to vote. He suspended the meeting at 7:40 pm and the resumption of the meeting would be held at 2:30 pm on 10 July.

Sha Tin District Council Secretariat
STDC 13/15/25

October 2020